

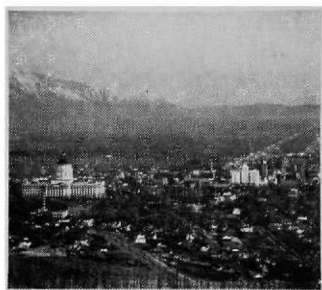
# UTAH

HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

*Valley of the Great Salt Lake*



## ABOUT THE COVER



*Valley of the Great Salt Lake.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL



*Sunset on the Great Salt Lake.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL



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*Executed by Cyrus E. Dallin, the Brigham Young monument at Main and South Temple was presented to the city and unveiled during Utah's "Golden Jubilee" celebration on July 24, 1897. It was first exhibited in 1892 at the Chicago World's Fair.*

## THIS IS THE PLACE

*By T. Edgar Lyon\**



A pioneer, with vision clear,  
Looked o'er this wondrous sage-brush land,  
And said, 'We'll build a city here,'  
Our own dear city then he planned.

Standing on the west side of the "This is the Place" monument and looking toward it with the mountains in the background, the viewer is made aware of three epochs in the exploration and settlement of this expansive intermountain valley. To the right is a group of explorers from Santa Fé, New Mexico. The first men to leave a record of their travels in this area, the Spaniards were searching for an overland route from Santa Fé to Monterey, California, in the summer of 1776. Following Indian trails which kept close to water courses, they penetrated as far north as Utah Lake (which lies about forty miles south of this monument). The journal of this expedition, written by the Franciscan friar Escalante, and the map drawn by Miera y Pacheco, who accompanied him, form the most important documents concerning this country and its Indians before the coming of the trappers.

On the extreme opposite end of the monument is a group of fur trappers and traders surrounding the equestrian figure of William H.

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*"This is the Place"  
monument, now the  
site of a State Park,  
was first unveiled on  
the 24th of July, 1947.*

Ashley, the first large-scale *entrepreneur* of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. The trappers and traders in the years between 1824-45 made their home in the Rockies trapping the valuable beaver. Following Indian trails and streams, they explored practically every stream, lake, and valley in the intermountain country. From their activities and reports much information was disseminated in the East concerning the fabulous West. Prominent among the "Mountain Men" were Jedediah S. Smith, Jim Bridger, Etienne Provost, Joseph Walker, William and Milton Sublette, David E. Jackson, Hugh Glass, Robert Campbell, and Thomas Fitzpatrick.

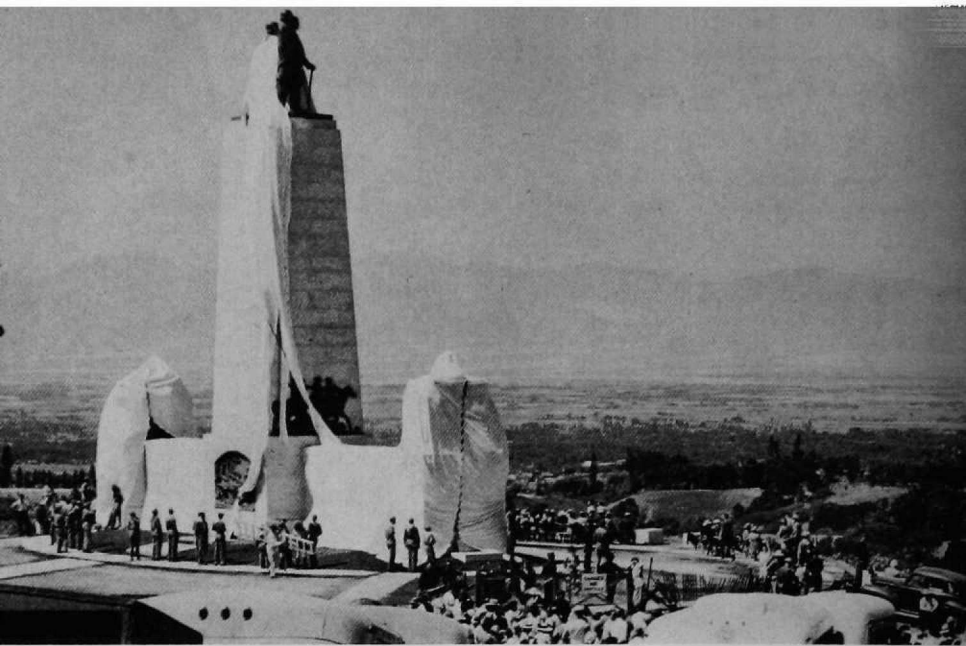
The center pylon, rising far above the two groups of statuary on the two extremes of the monument, stresses the greater importance of the third epoch—the arrival of the Mormons who came to make their homes, establish communities, subdue the untamed wilderness and turn the valleys into fruitful fields. These people, having experienced persecution because of religious, social, political, economic and cultural differ-

ences in Missouri and Illinois, came to the Great Basin to establish their own institutions according to the patterns they cherished. On top of the granite shaft of the monument are the gigantic-sized figures of Brigham Young, the Mormon leader, and two of his assistants, Heber C. Kimball and Wilford Woodruff (with whip in hand). Lower down on the shaft in low relief stand the figures of Orson Pratt and Erastus Snow (with one horse, which they shared), the first two of the Mormon pioneers to view the valley from near this spot on July 21, 1847. Rejoicing that their arduous journey of some 1500 miles was nearly at an end, they threw their hats into the air and shouted their "hosannas" in praise for their safe arrival.

The sight which greeted them was vastly different from that one sees today from this spot. On the hills above were groves of mountain maple and scrub oak. Below these small trees the slopes and hillsides toward the west were covered with sagebrush. Farther beyond this grayish brush was visible level land covered with tall grass, the grass becoming less luxuriant beyond the Jordan River and merging with the swampy marshes near the Great Salt Lake, which glistened in the sun.

Perhaps, as they paused on this benchland, they may have envisioned those who had preceded them into this valley. Foremost among these was Captain John C. Frémont, whose published report of his expedition into the Far West they had studied and whose map they had used as their guide on the westward trek. Exploring the Far West in the autumn of 1843, Frémont had visited the island in Great Salt Lake which bears his name. The following year, returning from California on the Old Spanish Trail, he had come north as far as Utah Lake and then turned eastward to reach Fort Leavenworth. He had almost completely encircled the Great Basin and had written favorably of it as a place for future habitations. Again in 1845 this intrepid explorer had come into this valley from the southeast, on his way to California, and had passed along the shore of the Great Salt Lake and continued westward over the salt desert.

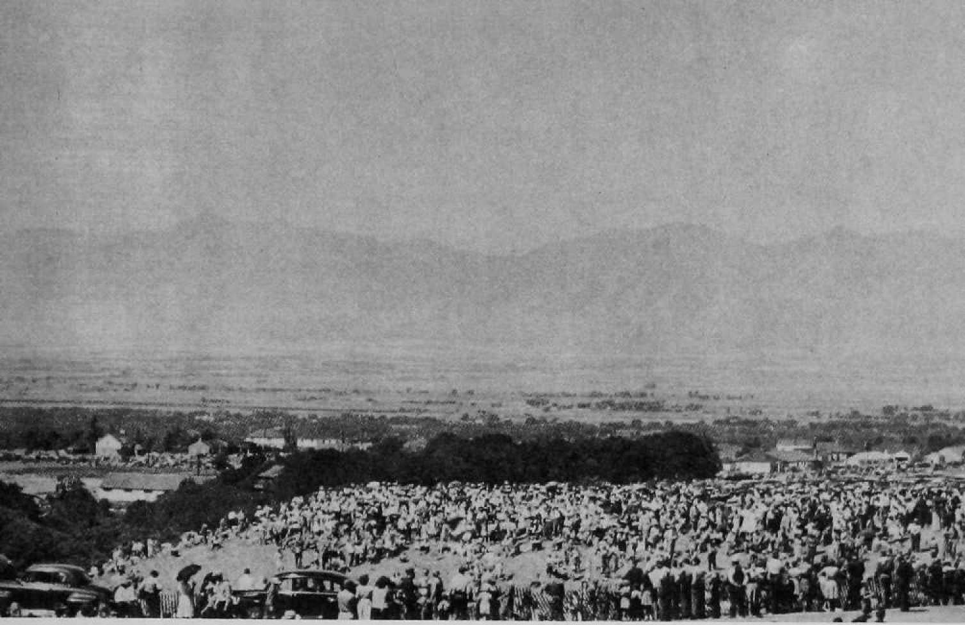
The Mormon scouts were also familiar with the activities of the adventurer, Lansford W. Hastings, who had met Frémont at Sutter's Fort early in 1846 and learned that Frémont's party had found a new and shorter route from Salt Lake Valley to California. In the early summer of 1846 Hastings, accompanied by some Mountain Men returning eastward from California, had followed Frémont's route and traversed this valley, crossing the desert south of the Great Salt Lake. He had found a passageway for his horses through the mountains behind this monu-



*"This is the Place" monument was sculptured by Mahonri M. Young. It is located at the mouth of Emigration Canyon, the route of the Pioneers, and commemorates the contribution of the Mormons to the early settlement of the West and also honors the others who preceded them into the Valley.*

ment, going on to Fort Bridger, Wyoming. After reaching the Green River, Hastings tried to lure California-bound emigrants into taking this shorter cutoff across the salt desert, claiming it would save them three hundred miles of travel.

Much more in the consciousness of the Mormons was the Reed-Donner party, whose route they had followed from Fort Bridger. During the summer of 1846, following the vague directions given them by Hastings, the Donners had found their way through the mountains to this valley — but at a terrible cost in toil and time. Forced to chop down trees, move boulders, fill swampy places and use teams from several wagons to haul one wagon up the steep hills, it had required twenty-one days for their party to cover the last thirty-six miles to the valley. Well could Pratt and Snow appreciate the debt they owed this party of the previous year. Even though stopping to make some improvements on the road, they had been able to travel the same distance in only seven days. And now, as they stood on this hill, they could see far to the west the salt-tinged desert where the Reed-Donner party had lost more of the time and equipment which led to their tragic fate in the Sierras during the winter of 1846-47.



While viewing the immense valley that stretched before them, it is doubtful if these two pioneer scouts had the slightest conception of the developments the next century would bring. Of one thing they were certain — in this valley their city would be laid out, but no dream of theirs could envision the valley now filled with people, their homes forming an almost continuous line from north to south and from the mountainsides westward toward the lake.

Eighteen hundred forty-seven, Utah's founding year, brought the vanguard of the settlers into these valleys. Now more than one hundred years later we stand amid the efforts of many unnamed toilers who wrought the schools, business enterprises, banks, mills, factories, mines, and a city of beautiful homes surrounded by outdoor recreational facilities in the canyons and parks. At the mouth of Emigration Canyon stands the massive "This is the Place" monument, commemorating in enduring bronze and granite a memorial to the great souls and the great movements that led to the settlement of the Great Basin. The true monument, however, is found in the accomplishments of these hardy pioneers and the living institutions which they founded, discovered, or developed.





Daguerreotypes D. H. Nashy & Co

Great Salt Lake city


Draper

*Great Salt Lake City in 1851, by J. Wesley Jones, the first known daguerreotype of the city, has an unexpected viewpoint showing the western skyline with prominent landmarks—Heber C. Kimball's residence, the Council House and the Tithing Office.*

PHOTO COURTESY, CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## THE CHANGING FACE OF SALT LAKE CITY

*By Dale L. Morgan\**



Salt Lake Valley is one of the handsomest on all the broad face of America. It is one of a fertile chain of valleys running along the western base of the Wasatch Mountains, collectively known as the Wasatch Oasis; it is also one of the many long valleys, all quite similar in character, which together comprise the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. But from the time the Mormons entered it in 1847, seeking a mountain refuge to which the Saints might gather from all over the world, it has had an identity all its own, "The Valley."

The city founded by the Mormon pioneers, known initially as Great Salt Lake City, but legally since 1868 by its present name, has changed continually since 1847 while its central identity has remained constant. In this article we shall observe something of this process of continuous change, the emergence and disappearance of landmarks which have distinguished the Salt Lake scene in successive generations, like the upheaval and subsidence of islands in a sea of time.

So green and tree-grown is its aspect today that it is hard to visualize Salt Lake Valley in 1847 as a nearly treeless expanse. There were a few cottonwoods along the courses of the creeks, with here and there a strug-

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\* Mr. Morgan, a native of Salt Lake City, is one of the leading interpreters and authorities on Utah and Western history. He is a many-time contributor to this journal, author of many books and articles, and has been on the staff of the Bancroft Library since 1954.

gling scrub oak or juniper, but Willard Richards was not exaggerating much when he reported to Brigham Young, "Timber can hardly be said to be scarce in this region for there is scarcely enough of it to be named and sage is as scarce as timber."

Still, upon Norton Jacob of the Pioneer party there came a mood of poetic appreciation:

We have here mild summer weather, a serene atmosphere, a most beautiful clear sky, with an excessive dry climate and arid soil. If it could receive timely rains, it would be one of the most beautiful, fertile regions on the face of the earth; being watered by numerous brooks and rivulets, perpetually flowing out of the mountains on every side, filled with trout . . . [and having] various kinds of rich grass and rushes. . . .

These were first impressions, written on July 22, 1847. Next day the Mormon Pioneers established a temporary camp on a fork of City Creek, approximately at what became State and Third South streets, getting out their plows to begin the labor of breaking the soil, and meanwhile building a dam to impound the waters of the little creek for irrigation purposes. They were eating dinner at noon on July 24 when Brigham Young reached camp with the rear detachment of the Pioneer party; ill with "mountain fever," he had made a more leisurely journey across the mountains from the Weber River, and now expressed his pleasure in this place the Mormons had journeyed so far to find.

Men rode out in different directions to investigate the countryside for several days afterward, but their reports only confirmed the general conviction that God had led the Saints directly to the very place they sought. On the afternoon of July 28 Brigham Young designated the site for the Temple Block, between the forks of City Creek, and there, after night-fall, he convened the whole camp. "It was," Norton Jacob wrote, setting down in his journal a delightful impression of the evening,

a beautiful and instruct[ive] scene—the soft mild air that always prevails here at night so that the men sit down comfortably in their shirt sleeves; the full moon shone over the eastern mountain shedding her mild radiance on the quiet valley of the Utah outlet [the Jordan River]; whilst we were seated on the ground engaged in council. . . .

Of the assembled camp Brigham Young inquired: "Shall we look further to make a location upon this spot and lay out and build a city?" It was voted that the city be erected where the camp now stood, and that

Brigham Young and his brethren among the Quorum of the Twelve should be a committee to lay out the city and to apportion the "inheritances." Young then said:

We propose to have the temple lot contain 40 acres, to include the ground we are now on—what do you say to that? All right? That the streets be 88 feet wide, sidewalks 20 feet, the lots to contain  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres, eight lots in a block, the houses invariably set in the center of the lot, 20 feet back from the street. Neither will they be filled with cattle, horses and hogs, nor children, for they will have yards and places appropriated for recreation, and we will have a city clean and in order.

Next day, July 29, members of the Sick Detachment of the Mormon Battalion, who had wintered at Pueblo in present Colorado, reached the Valley. On Saturday, July 31, they put up the first thing like a building erected on the site of Salt Lake City, a bowery or "shade" of brush, some 40 feet long by 28 feet wide, where Sabbath services were held. During the course of those services, it was voted that a stockade of "adobies" be commenced to house the Saints who would winter in the Valley, and thus the year's building program was laid out.

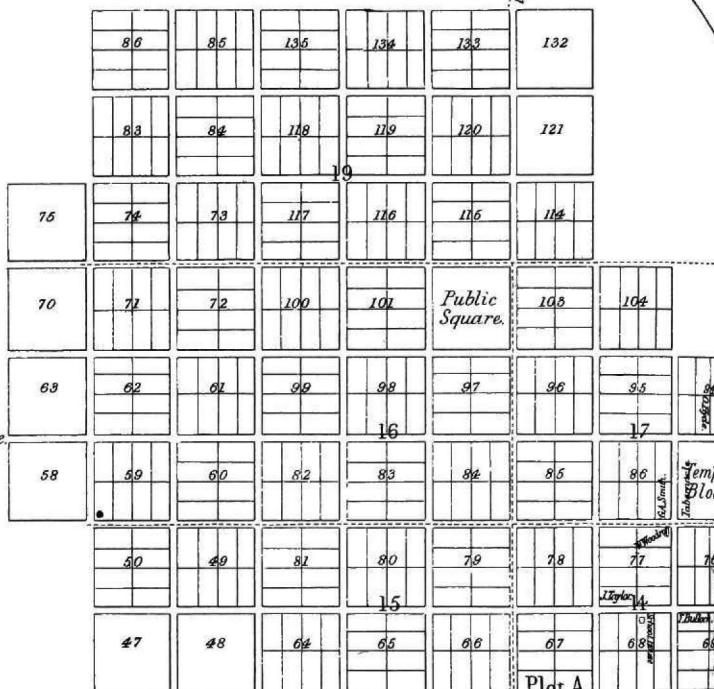
There was nothing haphazard about the origins of Salt Lake City. If ever there was a planned community, it was this one. The plat itself was patterned after one originated in 1833 by Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet. Smith had adopted as his own the type of checkerboard grid familiar to America since William Penn laid out Philadelphia. Particularly well adapted to use in the prairie states, where the gently rolling land imposed no harsh logic of its own, the plat for the City of Zion was also suited to use in the Valley. Streets, as provided by this plat, were eight rods (132 feet) wide, made to run with the cardinal directions and to cross at right angles, while the square blocks into which the land was divided were ten acres each, exclusive of the streets. In theory, the Temple Block was the center of the city, but it could remain only the center of Plat A, for it was located so close under the rising land at the north end of the Valley as to make inevitable an asymmetrical city.

The first thought, that the Temple Block should consist of forty acres, or four full blocks, was reconsidered when it was realized how large a tract was forty acres and the impossibility of doing it justice; accordingly, the Temple Square was reduced to ten acres. The southeast corner of this reduced Temple Block was fixed as the zero point for beginning the survey of the city. (It was also used for subsequent U.S.

North  
State Road

Plot C

Road to Tooele  
over Jordan  
West



GREAT SALT LAKE CITY SURVEYS.

All the blocks contain 8 lots of 1/2 acre each - 10 acres

All the streets are 8 rods wide, including side walks  
20 feet each

The lots number from the South East corner N<sup>o</sup> 1

Plot A was laid off in 1847 contains 135 blocks.

B " " " 48 " 63 "

C " " " 49 " 24 " occupied.

D the blocks have 4 lots and contain 2 1/2 acres.

South of this plot are the five acre lots.

The West boundry is the River Jordan.

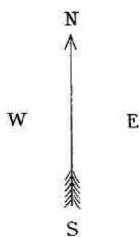
North of this plot are the Warm Springs.

North East of plot B is the Cemetery

The City is divided into 20 Wards under 20 Bishops.

PLATTED FOR CAP RICHARD F BURTON  
BY

THOMAS BULLOCK.  
G.S.L. CITY. UTAH.



Cemetery.

Canal.

City Creek.

18 Ward.

Plot D  
20 Ward.

89									
74	73	63	62	61	60	59	58	57	
13			12						
72	72	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	
56	55	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	
53	54	46	37	38	39	40	41	42	
8			9						
Public Square.	37	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	
35	36	32	23	24	Public Square	26	27	28	
20	19	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	
3			2						
17	18	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
8 8 7 8	5 0								
2	1 7	7	0	5	4	3	2	1	
5 3 2 1	2 1								

East

Emigration Road

West Street

County Road

Land Office surveys, becoming the Salt Lake Prime Meridian.) Street numbering then proceeded with great simplicity, outward from North Temple, West Temple, South Temple, and East Temple streets, the next cordon of streets being named First North, First West, First South, First East, and so on out. This nomenclature has endured, except that in the course of time East Temple was renamed Main Street, and First East became State Street.

Decision was made that the temporary stockade should be erected near a convenient clay deposit which promptly became known as the Adobe Yard. On August 3 Orson Pratt and Henry G. Sherwood chained off three blocks south and three blocks west from the Temple Block, and on the site now called Pioneer Park the camp began to lay the outer stockade wall, intended to be nine feet high. Within this adobe stockade log houses were commenced, using green timber cut in the adjacent canyons. By August 23 the Saints had built twenty-nine log houses "between 8 and 9 feet high, 16 or 17 feet long by 14 feet wide," and roofed eleven of them with poles and dirt.

On August 26 Young and his fellow apostles left the infant settlement on their return journey to the Missouri River. (Some of the Pioneer party left ahead of them; the remainder wintered in the Valley.)

The numbers of Saints who pressed on to the mountains in the track of the Pioneers far exceeded estimates that had been made in the spring. Sweeping in upon the embryo Salt Lake City, their incoming cattle mowed down the late and unfenced crops while they themselves swamped the accommodations provided.

In 1873-74, George Q. Cannon wrote in the *Juvenile Instructor*:

When the companies which followed the pioneers came into the valley, additions were made to the south and north of the fort, which were called the South and North Forts. They were connected with the Old Fort by gates, and each of them had gates through which the people went to and from their fields and work outside. The houses were built close together, with the highest wall on the outside, which formed the wall of the Fort; the roofs sloped towards the inside, and all the doors and windows were on the inside, so as to make the houses more secure against attack in case any were made. . . . The roofs of the houses were made rather flat. The result was that nearly every house leaked during the first winter, and umbrellas, where such a luxury as an umbrella was owned, were frequently in demand to shelter those engaged in cooking, and even in bed persons would be seen sitting or lying under an umbrella.



In any society there are stubborn individualists, and in the history of Salt Lake City Lorenzo D. Young has his special place. He had built two houses inside the Old Fort, but after the immigration arrived, on the grounds that the situation of the fort was "low," and the health of his pregnant wife so demanded, he sold out his property in the fort and began erecting, on the site of the Beehive House east of the Temple Block, "a house of heven logs, of two rooms and hallway between." Though the authorities called him on the carpet, Lorenzo's explanations were plausible, and he was allowed to live outside the fort that first winter. His two houses or rooms, completed December 23, 1847, were the first erected on any city lot. The rest of the wintering Saints, numbering 1,671, were packed into the 423 houses they had contrived to build within the forts.

Not until Brigham Young returned with the Mormon immigration of 1848 did occupation of the city plat begin; through the spring and summer the settlers carried out their farming operations from their homes in the fort.

Some of the apostles had been allowed, in the summer of 1847, to select their own "inheritances," mostly property fronting on the Temple Block, and at that time Young had picked out for himself and family the block immediately east of the Temple Square.

"After the lots were given out to the people," George Q. Cannon recalls further:

a united effort was made to fence the city. Instead of fencing each lot separately, each ward [an area of nine blocks] was fenced in one field, and each owner of a lot in a ward built his proportion of the fence. This made the work of fencing the lots comparatively easy, and it answered every purpose for several seasons. The streets were all kept open, but not at their present width. The owners of lots cultivated the streets in front of their premises, leaving no more than a sufficient space for travel. At the end of each street leading out of the ward into the main thoroughfares which ran around each ward, there were bars, which every one who passed in or out with a team or on horseback was required to be careful in putting up. There was no monopoly of land allowed. No man was permitted to take up a city lot or farming land for purposes of speculation. . . . Farming land was divided and given out in small parcels, so that all could have a proper proportion, . . . The enforcement of this rule made the settlement of the city and the farming lands very compact, and created a community of interest which would not have been felt under other circumstances.

In respect of the farming lands, Cannon explains:

that next the city was surveyed into five acre lots. This was for the purpose of accommodating the mechanics and others who would reside in the city. Next to the five acre lots the ten acre lots were laid out; then the twenty acres followed by the forty and eighty acre lots, upon which farmers could build and reside. All these were, for safety and present convenience, enclosed in one common fence, each owner of land building in proportion to the amount he had in his field, and the fence to be erected in such a manner as to be satisfactory to men appointed to inspect and accept of it when completed.

The building of this fence was no small undertaking, for in a letter of October 9, 1848, Brigham Young estimated that the fence would be "17 miles and 53 rods long, eight feet high."

The structure thus given Salt Lake City lastingly influenced its development. To treat land indefinitely as "inheritances" was not practical in terms of the American political and economic system; the settlers upon it could have no valid titles until the Indian title had been extinguished, formal surveys made, and the land placed upon the market by the U.S. government. These things did not come to pass for several decades, and meanwhile squatter titles developed in Utah as elsewhere.

Presently Main Street began to take shape, with stores built on corners or anywhere else, on small and large plots of land, and not twenty feet back from the sidewalk. Still the ten acre blocks remained as the basic structure of the city, and until the pressure of population forced the expansion of Salt Lake into fringe areas—first, in the late sixties and seventies, up on the sloping north benches that were carved into the small squares familiarly called the "Avenues," and later out beyond Ninth South Street, where blocks were laid out as oblongs—this pattern did not change. Laying out streets as straight lines crossing at right angles persisted within the memory of the living generation, and curving streets are almost solely to be found in recent subdivisions—east of Fifteenth East Street, west of Eighth West Street, and north of the State Capitol.

As early as the spring of 1849, ditches were dug along both sides of all streets to convey water diverted from the creeks, primarily, City and Red Butte creeks. This water served alike for drinking, culinary, and irrigation purposes. Not for some years did the settlers generally begin to put down wells, and it was many years before the increasing growth of Salt Lake City impelled the development of municipal (and ultimately sanitary) water supplies. Fencing, ditching, and the building and main-

tenance of bridges across the ditches became a main preoccupation of the bishops of the nineteen wards into which Salt Lake City was initially divided — these bishops being invested with the civil powers of magistrates — and that these bishops had their troubles is abundantly reflected in the scoldings periodically incorporated into the sermons of Brigham Young.

The first new public building undertaken was the Council House. As early as September 30, 1848, Brigham Young proposed the building of such a structure by tithing labor (men who could not pay the monetary tithe to the church might work it out), and on October 29 he put the authority of the church behind the proposal. Although active work did not begin until February, 1849, the building was completed in December, 1850. Upon foundation and first story walls constructed of red sandstone, it had a second story of adobe, surmounted by a cupola which makes it instantly recognizable in any early view of Salt Lake City. The Council House was situated at the southwest corner of South Temple and Main streets, and until its destruction by fire on June 21, 1883 (a calamity made a historical catastrophe in that the collection of the great pioneer photographer, Charles R. Savage, went simultaneously up in smoke), it served every public purpose; church services, sessions of the legislature, and all kinds of public meetings were held in it; at one time it housed the Territorial Library and the *Deseret News*; and from 1869 to 1881 it was the home of the Deseret University (the future University of Utah). The disappearance of this landmark is one of the first-generation cultural tragedies of Salt Lake City.

Other appurtenances of civilization introduced in the winter and spring of 1849 were a city cemetery, still existing on the north bench, though now surrounded by "The Avenues," and an armory.

It will now be appreciated how young a settlement was that City of the Great Salt Lake into which poured the host of California goldseekers beginning in June, 1849.

Among those recording their impressions was a Pittsburgher who, on July 22, 1849, spoke for a great many who would share his sentiments in time to come:

I shall never forget the first sight of this valley. It shall ever remain on my mind as the most beautiful spectacle I ever beheld. . . . The whole valley is surrounded by snow-capped mountains, forming a complete basin . . . occupied by the Mormons, who build their houses entirely of sun dried bricks. Their city occupies more ground than Pittsburgh, but each man has a large

piece of ground around his dwelling. The bridges are all good, the streets and roads wide, and the fences very regular. There are about 10,000 Mormons here [actually there were about half that number]. They say that they will welcome to their society any good citizen, no matter what his religion may be. Their motto is 'do right.' . . .

They assemble every Sunday morning under a large shed [a new Bowery, erected on the Temple Block this very month]. The Society is governed by a President, the Twelve and the seventy. The President and the twelve occupy the pulpit and do all the preaching. I went this morning when the bell rang, to church, where I saw a large assemblage, some dressed quite fashionably, and all clean and neat. A brass band first played a lively tune, and then the clerk rose and read several notices. . . .

He then announced that on Tuesday they would have an anniversary feast, as it was the day of the month [July 24] on which they arrived at their present snug quarters. He stated that the city would be roused early in the morning by the firing of cannon and the music of the brass band. A procession would then be formed, which would march out of town, and at 2 o'clock dinner would be served. The emigrants were all invited to attend.

The anniversary feast thus forecast marks the beginning of Utah's Pioneer Day celebrations, an annual highlight of the summer, not only for Salt Lake City but for Mormon communities and groups everywhere. The church service described had its peculiar character because there was as yet no newspaper in the Valley, and notices had to be given out at public meetings.

In April, 1849, the federal government had directed two U.S. Topographical Engineers, Captain Howard Stansbury and Lieutenant John W. Gunnison, to proceed to the Great Salt Lake country and map it thoroughly. Gunnison, on arrival August 24, noted that the city was "built or laid out at the foot of a low plain on the river valley & at present gives a disappointing view — but the fields of corn & vegetables around the scattered houses are refreshing to our eyes —" This observation was almost a *leit-motif* in travelers accounts for another generation; whether or not they were impressed by Salt Lake City as a metropolis, they were impressed by its oasis-like nature, its gratifying greenness. Stansbury again expressed this impression next spring, when he said: "The city looks beautiful contrasted with the desert wastes from which we have come, & when it comes to be built up & planted with trees will be a handsome city."

To the Stansbury Survey we owe the first pictorial representations

of the young Salt Lake City. If any Forty-Niner paused to limn the city before riding on to California, his work remains unknown. But F. R. Grist, a gentleman of artistic bent of whom little is known, accompanied the Stansbury expedition and made a number of drawings from which lithographs were prepared to illustrate Stansbury's report.

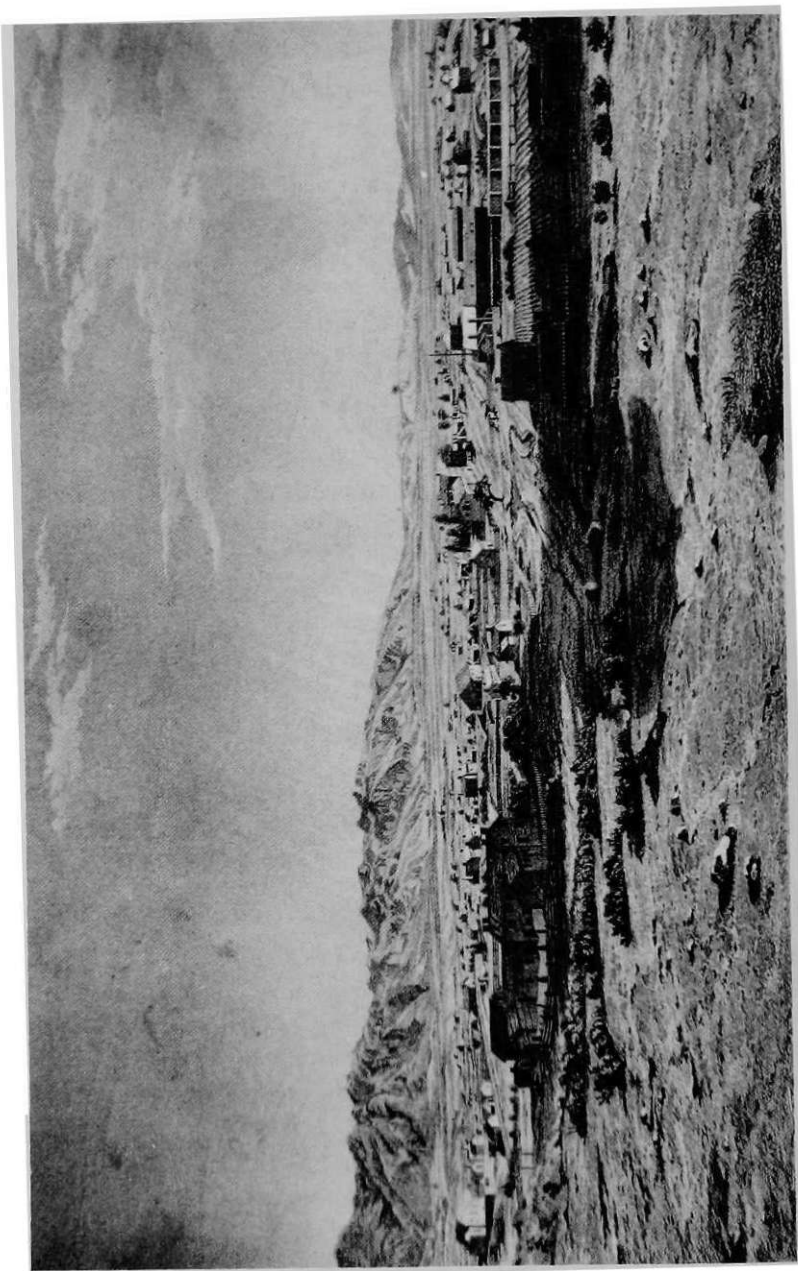
So far as known, the first daguerreotypes of Salt Lake City were made in the summer of 1851 by J. Wesley Jones, who crossed the continent daguerreotyping the principal sights, and afterwards had his views worked up by pencil artists for exhibition. His Great Salt Lake City has an unexpected viewpoint, showing the western skyline: In the distance at left is the northern tip of the Oquirrh, which the Mormons then called the "Sugarloaf Peak," with Antelope Island at right, and Stansbury Island in the far center. Jones pointed out that the city was not very compactly built, owing to the size of the lots sufficient for the cultivation of "vegetables and even Wheat and Corn for quite a family."

Profiting by such examples, the Mormons themselves commissioned an artist to travel the overland trail and picture the outstanding scenes along the way, especially those of interest to the Saints. The commission was given to Frederick Piercy, who in 1853 journeyed to Utah and made some of the most magnificent drawings ever to come out of the West, published in Liverpool in 1855 with letterpress, by James A. Linforth. Of his view of Salt Lake City Piercy remarked:

The site of the city is large, and . . . the buildings were very much scattered, rendering it almost impossible to convey any idea of the place unless a large area was embraced in the view. Consequently a favourable point was chosen [a little west of what is now First North and Main streets], commanding the principal buildings, and the chief portion of the city which was then built upon. This, on the other hand very much reduced the size of the objects, but not to indistinctness. On the whole I think it may be presented as a faithful portrait of Great Salt Lake City in 1853.

Linforth elucidated this portrait at length, after noting that the city was laid out on a magnificent scale, being now nearly four miles square:

An ordinance of the city requires the buildings to be placed 20 ft. back from the front line of the lot, leaving the intervening space for shrubbery or trees, which may be nourished by the irrigating canals flowing on each side of the street. The citizens are carrying out this design, and when the margin so appropriated is



*Great Salt Lake City as it appeared in 1853, taken from the north commanding the principal buildings and the*

*chief portion of the city. The street running north and south is East Temple Street—presently Main Street.*

studded with noble trees or planted with flowers, the effect produced will no doubt be delightful, especially in contrast with the neighbouring country, which has no woodland scenery.

He went on to say:

The dark looking building . . . in the foreground, is President H. C. Kimball's. It was then unfinished. The street crossing the centre of the engraving, lies N. and S., and is called East Temple Street. Proceeding down it, or southward, the largest building on the left is the Tithing Office and Church Store. A little lower down on the right, is the Council House, a stone building 45 ft. square and 2 stories high. It was built by the Church, and originally used by it, but has chiefly been occupied by the State and Territorial Legislatures. Immediately in front of the Council House, and running to the extreme right of the engraving is Temple Block, on which are seen the Public Works to the left, and the [Old] Tabernacle to the right. The Tabernacle was built in 1851, is 126 ft. long, 64 ft. wide, arched without a pillar, and will accommodate 2500. [It stood in the southwest angle of the Temple Block, where the Assembly Hall was ultimately built.] Another building of wood has since been attached to it — the Bowery, 156 ft. long and 138 ft. wide, which will hold 8000. At the present time the Temple itself is being erected. . . . Some idea of the magnitude of the edifice may be gleaned from the fact, that its foundation has swallowed up more stone than the Temple at Nauvoo contained altogether. A graded road has been made from Temple Block to the [red sand]stone quarry on the E., for the conveyance of building materials.

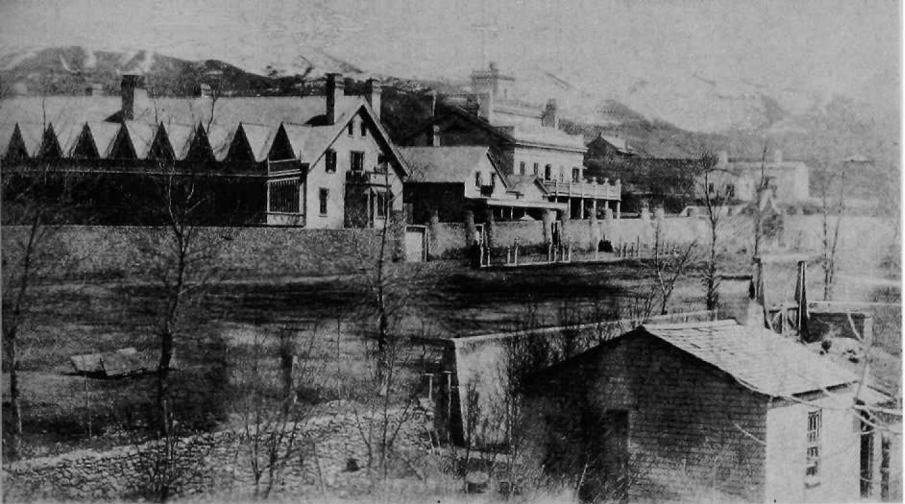
Other public buildings erected in the city since our view was taken, are the Social Hall, 73 ft. by 33 ft., built of adobies [on the east side of State Street between South Temple and First South streets, its site marked by the plat of grass at Social Hall Avenue], and used for public entertainments and dramatic representations; the Territorial Arsenal, on the "Bench," N. of the city [at the head of Main Street, virtually on the site of the present Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum; it blew up with frightful effect in 1876]; the Endowment House, on the N.W. corner of Temple Block, used by the L.D. Saints for the purpose indicated by its name [sacred ordinances, performed only in temples after temples were completed in Utah]; the Penitentiary at the S.E. of the city, and the Seventies' Council Hall, 50 ft. by 30 ft. [a block down State Street from the Social Hall, on the west side of the street].



Then in course of erection were the Great Salt Lake County Courthouse, on the northeast corner of Second South and Second West streets, and other public buildings, including "an Office for the Church Historian and Recorder on the S. side of South Temple Street," where the Medical Arts Building now stands. Private buildings, manufactories, and stores, Linforth remarked, "have multiplied beyond all expectation. In the year 1854, as many as 8 stores were built in East Temple Street, and 6 more in other parts of the city. Several good hotels have been opened." And lastly, by reason of the Indian difficulties of 1853 which have come down in history as the Walker War, the city was being walled in, to the height of twelve feet.

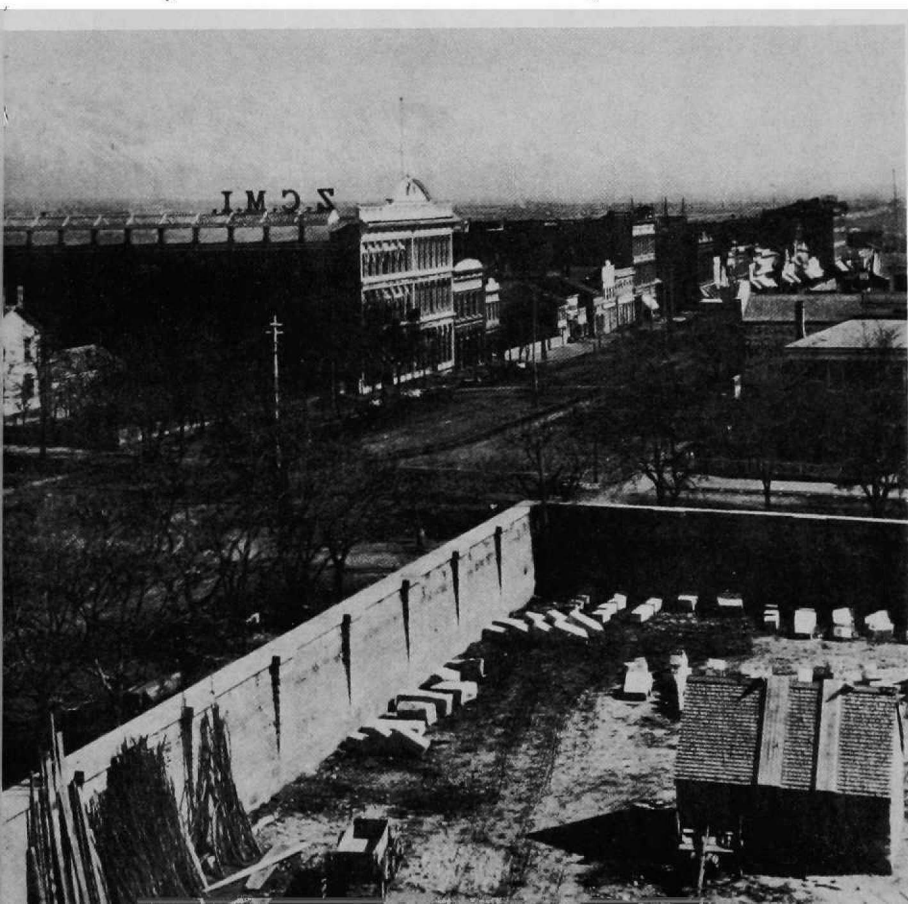
The "down-town" city on which we will increasingly focus our attention began to emerge on Temple Block and the "Brigham Young" block to the east, during the 1850's. Here alone old-city and modern city find a common identity. On the Temple Block, the surrounding wall is older than any of the now famous buildings that rise within, constructed between 1852 and 1856 as a public works project. Parenthetically, this was the first of several famous walls. The city wall, commenced in the summer of 1853, on which work continued desultorily for several years, was nominally for protection against the Indians, but basically a work project for needy immigrants, undertaken at Salt Lake City as a kind of object lesson to smaller and more exposed communities where a wall could serve a genuine defense function. Walls were also constructed around some private residences, principally those of Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball. The Brigham Young property fronting on South Temple Street was long shielded from the public view by such a wall, and a small remnant along State Street east of the Beehive House still stands.

The Beehive Mansion, like Brigham Young's adjacent office, was built in 1852. The gabled Lion House, farther west, was erected in 1855-56. But one who would see them today as in Brigham Young's time must envision the buildings cloistered behind their walls, with a gatekeeper to pass visitors and family members in and out. To the east, the Eagle Gate which spans North State Street dates from 1859. Brigham Young was early granted legal control of City Creek Canyon, to insure the purity of water supply, and access to it for logging or other purposes was to be had only with his permission, and through his property—therefore, after 1859, by proceeding under the Eagle. Though this arrangement had advantages, it also made Young's property a semipublic thoroughfare, so he had the road through his property walled in on both sides. West of the Brigham Young family dwellings on this historic block were the adobe



*The Lion House, constructed in 1855-56, was once the home of Brigham Young. It is connected to the Beehive House, located on its east, by a smaller office building which served as the general Church Offices.*

*Z.C.M.I. viewed from the Temple grounds across the street. Opened for business in March, 1869, it was one of the first department stores in the country and has been an architectural landmark on Main Street since 1876.*



quarters of the General Tithing Store, prominent on the face of Salt Lake City for over half a century; the wall around the Young dwellings continued down the street to enclose this edifice, too.

The Utah War, when the Mormons all but came to blows with the U.S. government, attracted national attention, and many correspondents flocked into the city in the spring of 1858 to describe it for the world. One writing to the *New York Herald* in June, 1858, described that curiosity, the useless city wall, then undertook to paint a picture of the city proper.

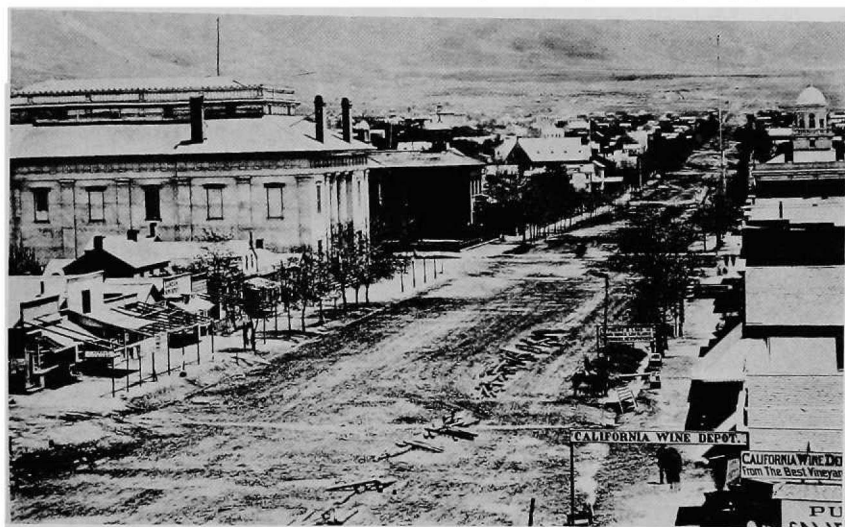
The town is very sparsely covered with houses; in the major part of it there are only two or three little habitations on a square block, and it will be remembered that the blocks are very large. The houses are built close to the sides of the blocks, the rest of the ten acres being tilled as gardens and fields; thus the city at present contains numerous small fields of wheat and some very fine gardens. The houses are all built of adobe. . . . The color of the buildings is a sort of slate white, and though with an individual house it is not very agreeable, yet it gives to the tout ensemble of the city a very lively and pleasant appearance. . . . Probably no other city in the world of this size presents to the eye of the approaching *voyageur* so magnificent a prospect; the exact space it occupies, the streets set as it were in a jewel of rippling brooks which glisten bright as silver in the sunlight, their breadth and regularity, the rows of young verdant trees that border upon them, the lively color of the houses, the beautiful gardens and orchards, with the small fields thick covered with flowing wheat, give to it an aspect singularly attractive. . . . This city, so beautiful, so isolated from the rest of the world . . . is the work of but ten years, and that too in a barren valley, without spontaneous vegetation higher than a willow bush.

The sixties brought their own contribution to Salt Lake City's character. In the autumn of 1861 the Overland Telegraph was completed, so that the first utility poles, with their strung wires, appeared on Main Street. The Mormons subsequently connected all their principal settlements with a home-owned and home-operated Deseret Telegraph line, and the utility poles multiplied; when gas lighting of downtown streets materialized in the seventies, followed by electrified street railways, and the telephone, a veritable forest of utility poles sprang up down both sides of most streets and with a double line down the middle of some.

Cherished in Salt Lake City's memory is the great pioneer enterprise, the Salt Lake Theatre, constructed between July, 1861, and March, 1862, on the northwest corner of State and First South streets. Begun by Brig-



*An early view of the Temple Block, looking south.*



*The Salt Lake Theatre, corner of State and First South.*

*Eagle Gate, a century-old Salt Lake City landmark.*



ham Young and carried out as a community project, this majestic theatre (to speak of it as merely a building does not convey its character) for two generations was one of the great American theatrical landmarks, and its razing in 1928 was one of the bitterest pills Salt Lakers were ever asked to swallow in the name of progress, made the more bitter by the fact that for some years afterward a gasoline station did business on the site. A modest building, housing the Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company, now stands there, with only a mournful plaque on its wall to summon up past glories.

In the first year of the Salt Lake Theatre, Colonel Patrick Edward Connor, commanding a regiment of California-Nevada volunteers, established on the bench east of the city a post designed to keep the Mormons under military observation. Fort Douglas became the center of a military reservation which in the course of time set limits to the eastern expansion of the city, forcing it southeast.

Successively the church had outgrown the buildings it erected upon the Temple Block for religious services. The Bowery had given place to the Old Tabernacle in 1852. The capacity of that building was limited, however, and a new Bowery erected north of it, along the west side of Temple Square, was usable only in good weather. At the April Conference of 1863 Brigham Young announced the intention of the church to build a huge tabernacle. The unique building that resulted, with its turtle-shaped roof, was completed in October, 1867, a monument of architectural ingenuity, if not externally the handsomest building ever erected by the Saints. It still stands substantially as when built, the only immediately obvious difference being the sheathing of aluminum which protects the roof from the elements.

Notwithstanding the early beginning made on the Temple, progress was so slow that some visitors, like Richard F. Burton in 1860, expressed doubts that it would ever actually get built. Ground was broken in 1853, and the cornerstone laid the same year. But no real progress was made until Salt Lake City's railroad era began with the completion of the Utah Central Railway from Ogden in January, 1870; when the line was extended south, a spur line could be built into Little Cottonwood Canyon, and from 1873 the freighting of the granite blocks was simplified and expedited. Meanwhile temple-building began elsewhere in Utah, first at St. George, subsequently at Manti and Logan, and all three of these sacred edifices were completed before the majestic Salt Lake Temple was dedicated on April 6, 1893. The reaching, uncompleted walls of the Temple give a graphic character to all photographs of the city made in the late

seventies and eighties. Smaller-cut granite blocks meanwhile were used to build the dignified Assembly Hall, a Gothic structure erected between 1877 and 1880 on the site of the Old Tabernacle, still playing a familiar role in the ecclesiastical and cultural life of Salt Lake City. Granite chips from the Temple Block were used to build a curious structure, Anderson's Tower, which was erected about 1884 on the east rim of City Creek Canyon, near Seventh Avenue; it was promoted as an elegant vantage point from which to view the city, but as a commercial venture its fate was foreordained, since the heights above the city everywhere afforded views as good or better. The tower came down finally in 1932.

"Elegance" was a word which came increasingly into the city's vocabulary. In particular it was associated with the name of William Jennings, one of Utah's early merchant princes, who, wrote Edward W. Tullidge in 1881, was:

a lover of home magnificence. To his examples Salt Lake City owes greatly its fine solid appearance of today. With his Eagle Emporium [a stone structure built in 1864 on the southwest corner of Main and First South streets] he commenced the colossal improvements of Main Street, in which he was followed by William S. Godbe and the Walker Brothers. His home is quite palatial. . . .

Jennings was crucially important in the success of Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution, organized by the Mormon authorities in October, 1868, as a "parent store" or wholesaling establishment for the co-operatives the Mormons were organizing all over Utah. One of the first department stores in the country, Z.C.M.I. opened for business in March, 1869, in the Eagle Emporium, its insignia the all-seeing eye, with an accompanying motto "Holiness to the Lord." Soon expanding into several different lines, including the retail trade, and into several different buildings, Z.C.M.I. eventually established its own architectural landmark on Main Street by building on the east side of the street just south of the residence of the long-time mayor, Daniel H. Wells, a long, three-story structure. There, since March, 1876, Z.C.M.I. has been housed, its home now the most venerable of Salt Lake City's principal business buildings.

Street railways appeared in Salt Lake City in 1872. Horse-drawn at first, the cars congregated at "Emporium Corner" to leave "at the hour and half past to the first Ward, or southeastern portion of the city; to the railroad depot; to the Warm Spring baths; to the Twentieth Ward, or northeastern portion of the city [up in the Avenues]; and to the Eleventh Ward, or eastern portion of the city," as noted by H. L. A. Culmer in his





*A favorite viewpoint, this panoramic view of the Valley from the Capitol at the head of State Street, looking south, was taken in the early thirties.*

1879 *Tourists' Guide Book*. Culmer also observed that the city was "lighted with gas by the Salt Lake Gas Co., whose works are near the railroad depot." This innovation had come about in 1872.

There were a good many more innovations as the eighties came in. In May, 1880, Salt Lake City purchased from the Brigham Young estate the old Brigham Young farm, out beyond Ninth South Street, and opened it to the public in June, 1882, as Liberty Park. In September, 1880, an electric light exhibition was held in front of Z.C.M.I., and though it did not convert the city fathers immediately to Thomas Edison's discoveries, electricity had come into general use by 1888, in which year horse traction of the city railway ceased. That remarkable invention, the telephone, introduced into Utah in 1879, simultaneously began to exert its influence on communications. And in August, 1883, the City Council ordered a house numbering program instituted for the city, with a view to inaugurating free mail delivery, which followed in March, 1885.

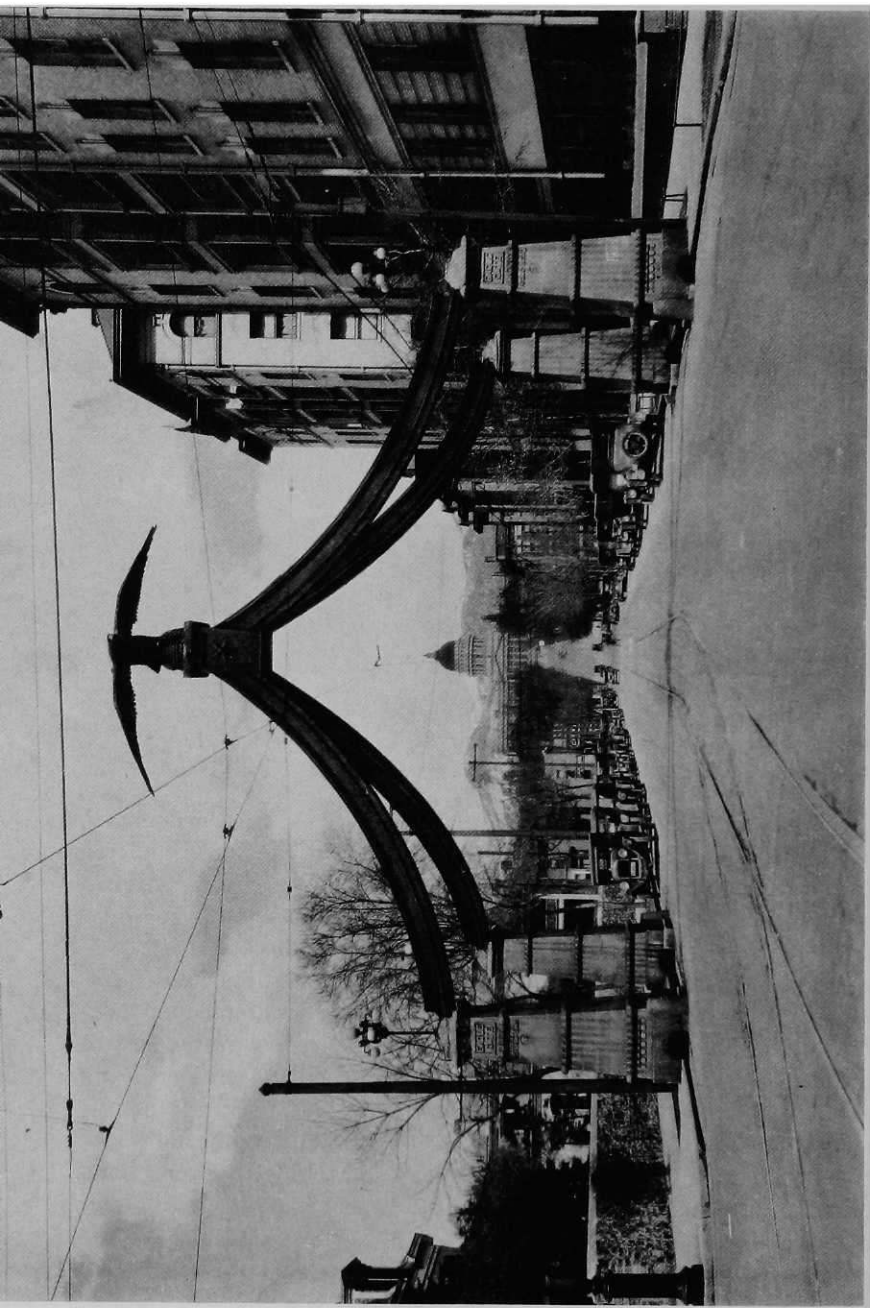




PHOTO, HAL RUMEL

*New subdivisions west, near the Jordan River, and the great industrial expansion of postwar Salt Lake City is shown in this aerial photograph of the 1950's.*

Almost, the modern city had evolved. Yet the descriptive literature about Salt Lake City published in the last decade of the nineteenth century, and especially the views these pamphlets proudly reproduced, limn the face of the city with a somehow shocking emptiness for one who would orient himself by present landmarks. The Temple Block is there, complete; the Brigham Young monument is out in the middle of South Temple and Main streets, where it was planted during the Semicentennial Celebration of 1897; Brigham Young's family dwellings, now the property of the church, stand out in almost their modern aspect, and the Eagle Gate as well, elevated on new supporting columns in 1891, to permit the passage of streetcars under it. Some distance down State Street, the high clock tower surmounting the gloomily gray City and County Building, completed in 1894 on the old Emigration Square where incoming immigrants had camped on arrival in the city, gives the eye some anchorage. The great white oblong bulk of the Salt Lake Theatre, then present, is now



*The Eagle Gate monument was elevated on new supporting columns in 1891 to allow sufficient clearance for the passage*

*of streetcars under it. The Capitol can be seen towering on its hill in the background. Photo taken in the middle 1920's.*

gone. After all, it is Main Street that remained to be transformed, and that has been the business of the twentieth century.

The transformation began in 1909, when down-state mining money was sunk by Samuel Newhouse into the twin eleven-story Boston and Newhouse buildings, on the east side of Main between Third and Fourth South streets. Two years later the ornate white Hotel Utah reared its ten stories above the old site of the Tithing Office at South Temple. The Walker Bank Building, at Second South shot up in 1912 as the tallest skyscraper yet, sixteen stories and three on top of that foundation. The Newhouse Hotel, fifteen floors, appeared in 1915, and after a lapse of nine years, the thirteen-story Continental Bank Building. For a time, the last major structure reared against the Salt Lake skyline was the Medical Arts Building on East South Temple Street, completed in 1927.

A good many lesser buildings had been erected meanwhile, of course, more than we have space to enumerate, though all have contributed indispensably to the emergence of that vertical dimension which, to anyone who has lived in Salt Lake City, exquisitely balances out its horizontal dimension. Important among them is the Federal Building on lower Main Street, originally built in 1906, and extended in 1911. And on South Temple, below the Lion House, the imposing L.D.S. Church Office Building, completed in 1917, balances the Federal Reserve Building, erected in 1926 on the southwest corner of South Temple and State streets to replace the Gardo Mansion, commonly known as the "Amelia Palace."

We cannot take this narrative up South Temple to observe the various cathedrals and mansions, which with the tall trees arching their branches over the broad sidewalks have given this street a character and charm all its own. Nor can we venture to explore the subject of schools and hospitals. But no account of Salt Lake City could be adequate that did not raise its eyes to the State Capitol on the north bench, built between 1912 and 1916, or which did not wheel east to observe where the University of Utah in 1900 found a home below Fort Douglas, after many years of wandering about the valley floor. Here the university has grown since, an educational metropolis, fortunate in that its situation immediately below the military reservation enabled it to lay claim to land for expansion when the status of the honored old post changed after World War II.

The advent of the electric light in the eighties gave to Salt Lake City a night-time charm peculiarly its own, for its situation under the hills enabled visitors and residents alike to climb the heights and see the stars wink in the dark depths of the Valley as well as in the gulfs of space. Neon came in the mid-1920's to touch up the night-time scene with glow-

ing color; and the arrival of the commercial airplane added another touch, the revolving beacon flashing from the mountain heights east of the city.

There is no end to change: a city that does not change is dying. The automobile came to Salt Lake City's streets soon after the rounding of the century, soon altering the very character of those streets and ultimately banishing the streetcar, a development made final in 1941. It accelerated the city's growth, especially to the east and southeast, where with a mighty assist from the Deer Creek water project, insuring adequate supplies of water under adequate pressure, homeseekers have now climbed to almost the last of the high benches left by ancient Lake Bonneville. Here in the no less surprising new subdivisions west of the Jordan River, the bareness of the new developments, on which from a distance homes seem huddled like sheep, is a reminiscence of the earliest Salt Lake, for trees have not had time to grow and assimilate post-war Salt Lake City into the city's timeless identity.

There is change, too, in the inner city, symbolized in the appearance in 1955 of the First Security Bank Building at Fourth South and Main streets, the first major structure added to the Salt Lake City skyline in twenty-eight years, and so new a departure in its architecture as to seem a bit alien: It will have to grow into the scene. Yet perhaps its glassy expanse reflects something of the future, so that a Salt Laker of a future year will find in it the first reassuring oncoming of the present. Still we may hope that Salt Lake City will not lose itself in growth, that as it has preserved its unique identity through its eras as village, town, and city, it will not lose that identity in its transformation into a metropolis.



**MAIN STREET:  
SALT LAKE CITY**

*Gone are the water ditches, the telephone, power, and trolley lines. After a century the modern Main Street has evolved. Viewed from Fourth South looking north toward the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Building on "Arsenal" hill.*

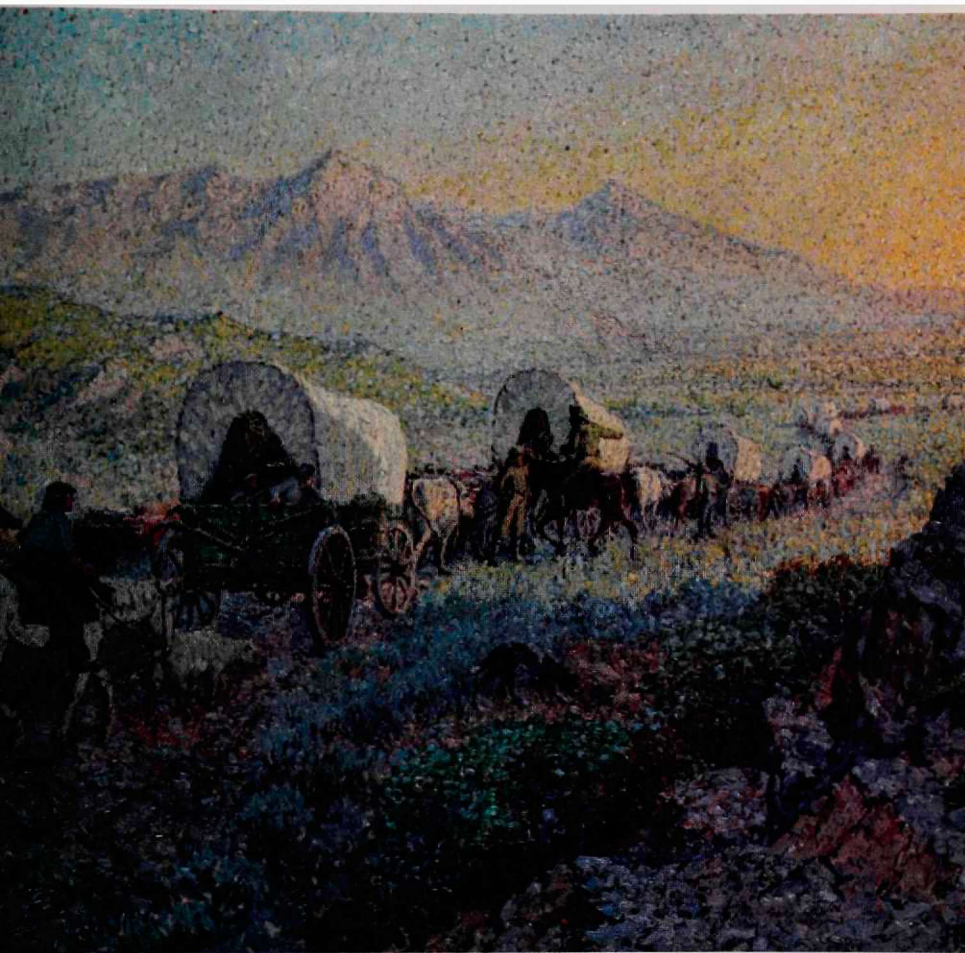
PHOTO, HAL RUMEL





## "ENTERING THE VALLEY"

*Utah's famous artist J. T. Harwood painted the picture of the covered wagon pioneers entering the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. It hangs in the Salt Lake Public Library.*



## "THIS IS THE PLACE" MONUMENT

*Commanding a view of the entire Valley of the Great Salt Lake, "This is the Place" State Park will eventually include terraced gardens, picnic facilities, an amphitheater, observation shelters and a toboggan run. An Information Building was recently completed near the monument.*

PHOTO, INTERMOUNTAIN TOURIST SUPPLY



## THE MORMON TABERNACLE

*This immense auditorium 250 feet long, 150 feet wide and 80 feet high is elliptical in shape topped by a massive roof resting like a great inverted bowl on forty-foot pillars of cut sandstone masonry. A modern addition is the aluminum sheathing on the roof.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL





## THE SALT LAKE L.D.S. TEMPLE

*Ground was broken for this magnificent edifice in 1853; it was dedicated on April 6, 1893. The quiet and dignity of Temple Square is emphasized as the slanting rays of a winter sun glow on the Temple and the Seagull monument.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL



**GOLD ROOM, UTAH STATE CAPITOL**

*The State Reception Room, or "Gold Room" gained its name from the*

*general golden appearance of the color scheme and the extensive use of gold-leaf trim. The original decorations were imported from abroad.*





### **UTAH STATE CAPITOL "Cherry Blossom Time"**

*The capitol grounds are gracefully sloped and appropriately landscaped, offering color and beauty throughout the year. The greens and blues of the evergreens predominate in winter and early spring, followed by the warm pinks of the cherry blossoms and the lavender and purple of the lilacs, later the bold reds of the hawthorne trees and finally the brilliant oranges and reds of the pyracantha. The tulips, roses, and annual flower beds contribute a riot of color in season.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL



### SKI LIFT AT ALTA

*Just seventeen miles from downtown Salt Lake City, Alta, once famous for its productive silver mines, is now gaining an even greater reputation for its world famous ski runs and fabulous Swiss type ski chalets.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL

### ALPINE AUTUMN SCENE

*The bare ridges of Mount Timpanogos form the background of this autumn scene on the Alpine Loop highway. The switchbacks and turnouts of the road reveal mile after mile of such enchanting vistas to the viewer.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL





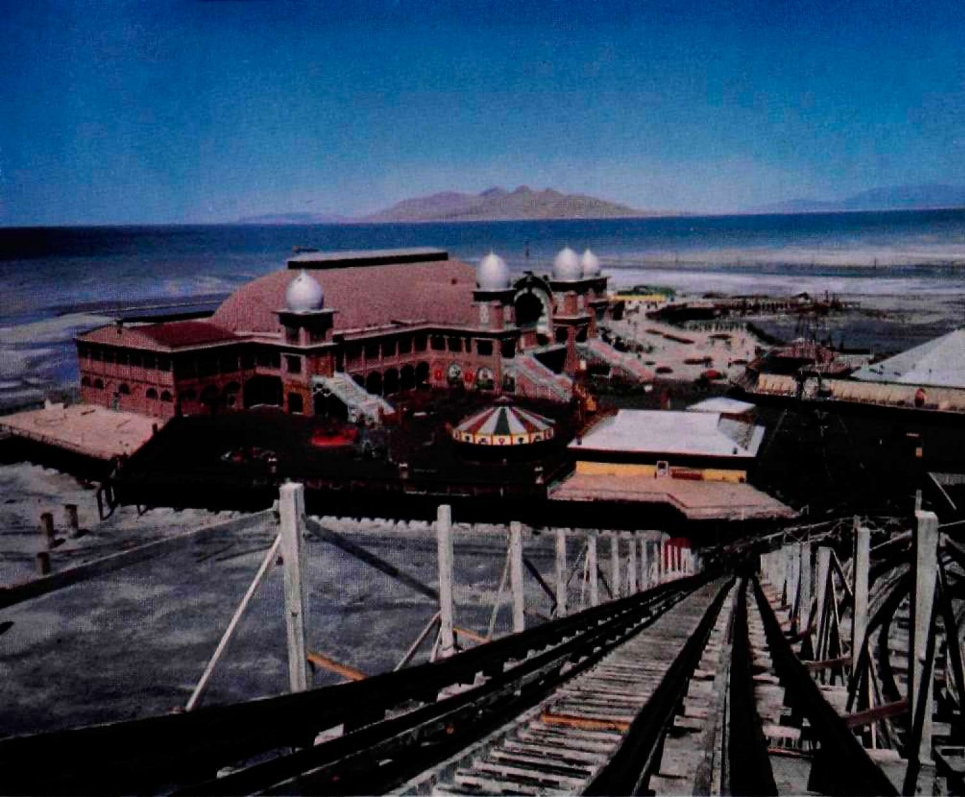
## SALT HARVEST

*Several companies operate plants on the Great Salt Lake shore refining salt for commercial consumption. Farther west, miles of "Salt Flats" sparkle and glisten like snow.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL







## **SALT AIR**

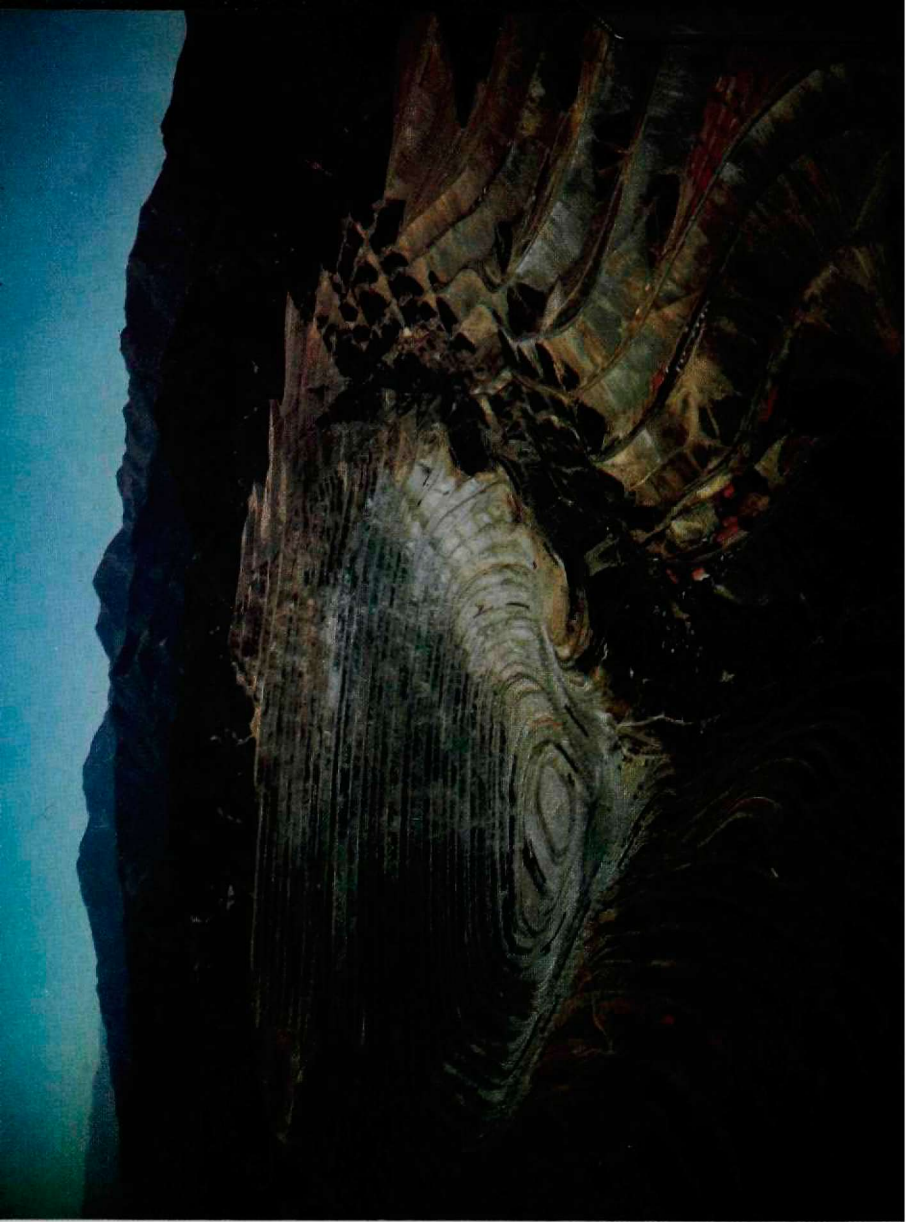
*The great Moorish pavilion at Saltair was built in 1893. R.K.A. Kletting was the architect. In 1925 fire destroyed the resort, but it was rebuilt and through the years has remained as the amusement park landmark of the lake.*

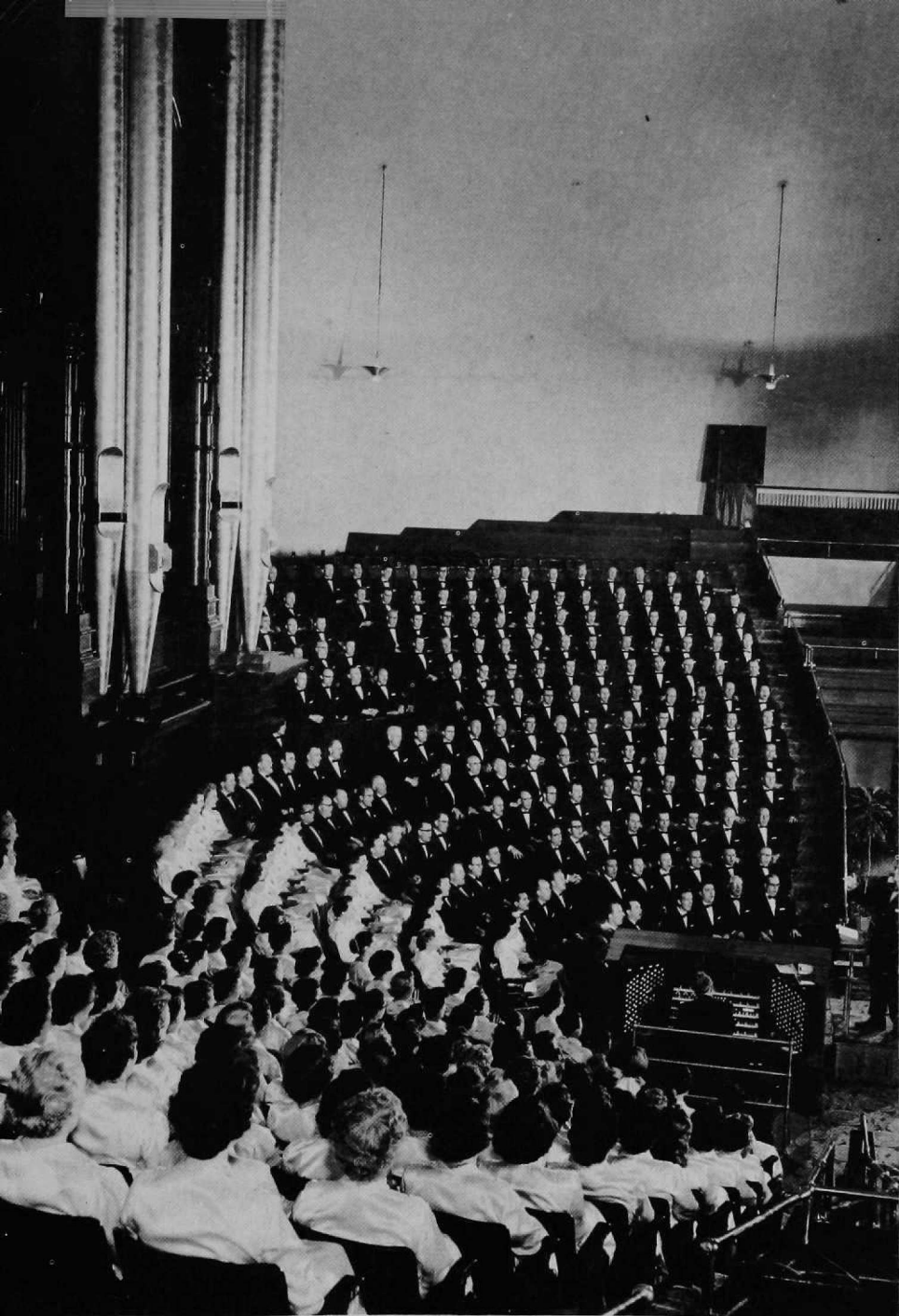
PHOTO, INTERMOUNTAIN TOURIST SUPPLY

## THE BINGHAM COPPER PIT

*From the largest open-pit copper mine in the world comes one-third of the nation's annual total of copper production. Operated by Kennecott Copper Corporation, the great pit is a monument to Daniel C. Jackson who had the vision to recognize the enormous potential hidden in the Oquirrh.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL





*World famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Organ.*


PHOTO, L.D.S. INFORMATION SERVICE



*Through these gates pass more than one million people each year. Visitors from all of the states in the Union and from many foreign countries as well have signed the Temple Square register in one single day.*

## TEMPLE SQUARE: THE CROSSROADS OF THE WEST

*By Theodore L. Cannon\**



On the evening of July 28, 1847, just four days after the entry of the first company of Mormon Pioneers into the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, Brigham Young struck his cane into the sandy soil and proclaimed, "Here will be the Temple of our God!"

In the days that followed, a forty-acre square was staked out surrounding that designated point (the square was later reduced to ten acres), and from its southeast corner, the streets of the new city were surveyed and laid out.

In the years that followed, Temple Square became the focal point and nerve center of the entire Intermountain West. From that day forward it was the principal central meeting place of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, even as it is today—the place from which has gone forth the word of the church's latter-day prophets.

The temple Brigham Young mentioned was not started immediately—not, in fact, until 1853, and it was not completed until forty years later—but within days of his prophetic utterance, members of the Mormon

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\* Theodore L. Cannon is news director of the Information Service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and associate editor of the *Deseret News*.



Battalion had built a "bowery," an open-air shelter of poles, branches, and brush, the first of many structures to be erected on the square.

Today, Temple Square, containing the many-spired gray granite Temple, the great domed Tabernacle, the graceful Gothic-towered Assembly Hall, and the Bureau of Information and Museum, entertains more than a million visitors per year.

Day after day, in every season, they come from far and wide to see and hear — and marvel. During the summer tourist months thousands daily throng the "miles" of walks through the park-like grounds, learning the Mormon story as evidenced by the buildings and the several monuments and memorials, and explained by volunteer guides.

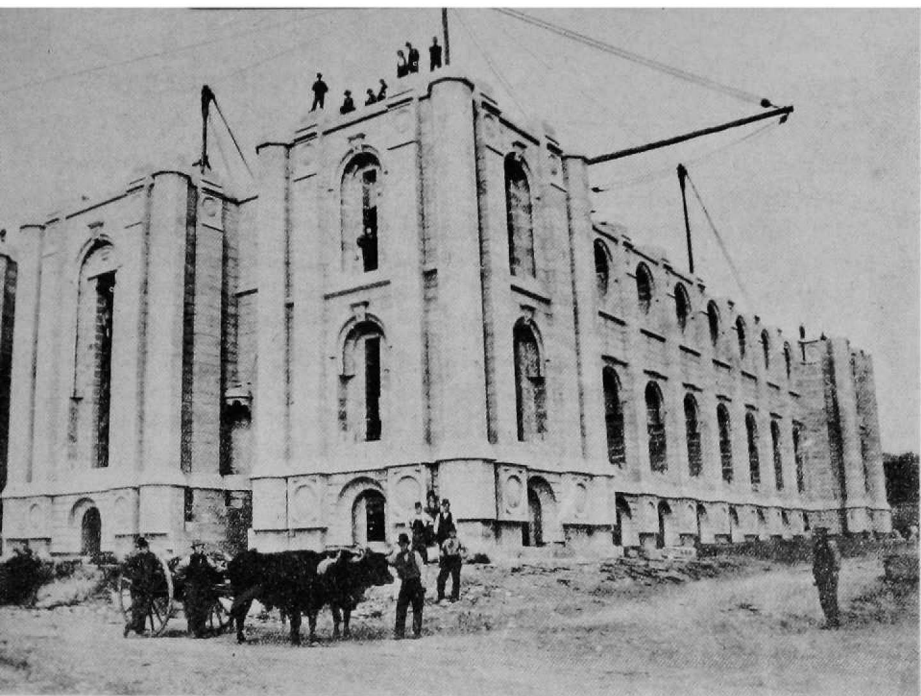
Each Sunday morning the world-famed Mormon Tabernacle choir and organ send forth over a national radio network half an hour of sacred and secular music, along with "The Spoken Word," a brief nondoctrinal sermonette.

This weekly program, now in its thirty-first year, is believed to be the oldest continuously broadcast noncommercial feature in the history of radio. On the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary with the Columbia Broadcasting System in June of 1958, congratulatory messages were received from President Eisenhower, former Presidents Truman and Hoover, and scores of leading public figures, educators, and musicians throughout the nation.

Twice annually, in April and October, tens of thousands of members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints convene in the Tabernacle and nearby buildings for the church's annual and semiannual General Conferences. Between times other thousands gather in the Tabernacle for other church meetings and for public events — concerts of the world-famed Utah Symphony and its guest artists, conventions, pageants, oratorios, and addresses by national and international figures. Nine presidents of the United States, several candidates for that office, and countless other public figures have spoken from its rostrum.

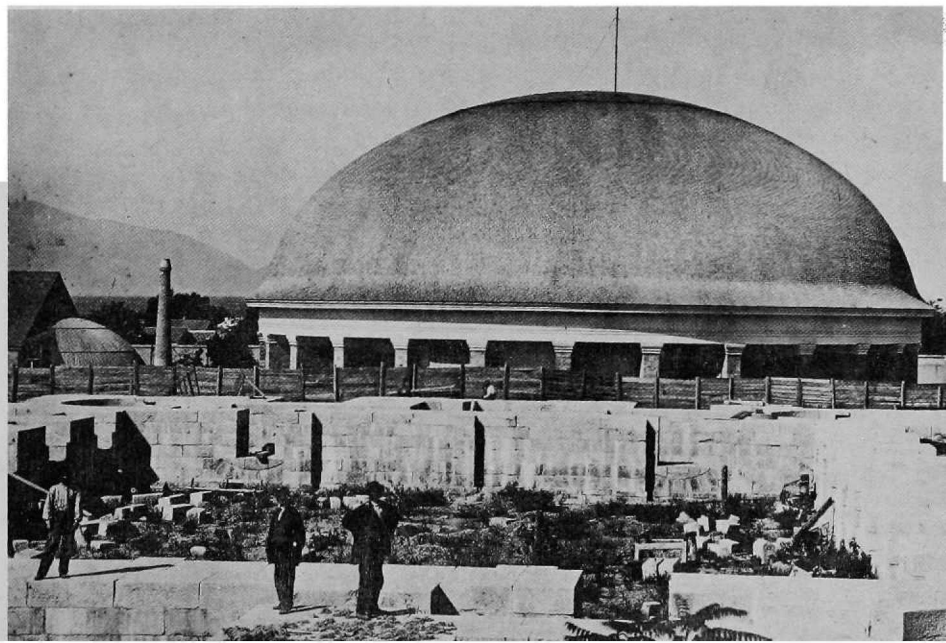
Free daily noonday recitals on the Tabernacle organ, one of the finest in the world, have been a feature on Temple Square for more than half a century. And as tourist groups increase in size during the summer months, afternoon recitals are added.

Guide service for visitors, free of cost, is provided at half-hour intervals each day during the winter season, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and in summer the tours start as early as 6:30 A.M. and continue throughout the day at twenty minute intervals until 8:00 P.M. Guides are volunteer



*The reaching, uncompleted walls of the Latter-day Saint Temple contribute graphic character to all photographs of Salt Lake City taken in the late seventies and eighties.*

*The Latter-day Saint Tabernacle was completed in October, 1867. It remains a monument of architectural ingenuity and still stands substantially as when originally built.*





"missionaries" taking time from their daily work, in businesses, trades or professions, to render this service.

Visitors do not enter the Temple, the largest and principal one of twelve such structures operated by the Mormon Church. Only church members in good standing and duly recommended may enter the temples where sacred ordinances of the faith are performed. Other temples are located in St. George, Manti, and Logan, Utah; in Cardston, Canada; Mesa, Arizona; Laie, Hawaii; Idaho Falls, Idaho; Los Angeles, California; Bern, Switzerland; Hamilton, New Zealand; and London, England. Before their westward migration in 1847, the church had erected temples in Kirtland, Ohio, and Nauvoo, Illinois.

Actual construction of the Salt Lake Temple was commenced with ground-breaking and dedication ceremonies on February 14, 1853, and the four cornerstones were laid the following April 6, the twenty-third anniversary of the organization of the church. Originally, it was planned that the Temple would be built of adobe and red sandstone quarried in Red Butte Canyon, immediately east of the city. A wooden railway was even constructed to the canyon for the transportation of the stone, but it was not used. A much more durable material, granite from the quarries at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon, twenty miles distant, was selected and the herculean task of hauling in the material was begun.

The rough blocks, wrenched and split from the mountains by hand drills and wedges and the use of such small quantities of low-power explosives as were available, were conveyed at first by ox teams; four yokes were required for each block and every trip was a labored journey of three or four days. A canal for the conveyance of the stone by water was projected, and work thereon was begun, but the plan was abandoned as the prospect of railroad transportation became more certain.

Meanwhile, it had been decided to surround Temple Square with a substantial wall—it was initiated as a make-work project—and labor was commenced in 1852. In three years the wall was finished, and for the most part it stands today as it did when first completed. It extends a full city block—one-eighth of a mile—in each of its four directions. On a four-foot base of red sandstone, it is built above that base of pressed adobe brick, and then capped by a foot-thick coping of sandstone, to a total height of fifteen feet. Durable cement plaster covers the adobe portions.

In later years the four huge wooden gates, one in the center of each side of the square, were replaced with ornamental iron grill work, and some portions of the adobe sections, deteriorating under the inroads of

the elements, have had to be replaced. But for the most part the original wall still stands.

During the early years of the settlement, the Temple enclosure was the communal center of mechanical industry — the one great workshop of the intermountain commonwealth. The church had established there its public works, comprising a power plant in which the energy of City Creek, which flowed through the site, was harnessed to the wheel. Machine shops and mills for the working of both wood and metal hummed with activity from dawn 'till dusk, and much of the work performed and materials produced in those early years was unconnected with the temple project.

The original 1847 bowery was replaced after two years with a newer and larger open air bowery on the south side of the grounds, and this, in turn, gave way to the first tabernacle, which was completed in December, 1851, on the southwest corner of the block.

This structure, of adobe on a sandstone foundation and having a sloping, shingled roof, was 126 feet long by 64 feet wide, was completely enclosed, and seated some twenty-five hundred people. To handle overflow crowds, a third bowery was built to the north of the tabernacle, and these two buildings were used for regular religious services and public meetings until the new and present Tabernacle, started in 1863, was completed in 1867.

In 1854, shortly after the walls of the great Temple had started to rise, it was decided to build a temporary structure in which temple ordinances and ceremonies could be performed. This was the Endowment House, a two-story adobe building, located on the northwest corner of the block. It was dedicated May 5, 1855, and continued in use until November, 1889, three years before the Temple was dedicated, but after three other temples — those in St. George, Manti, and Logan — had been completed and put into use.

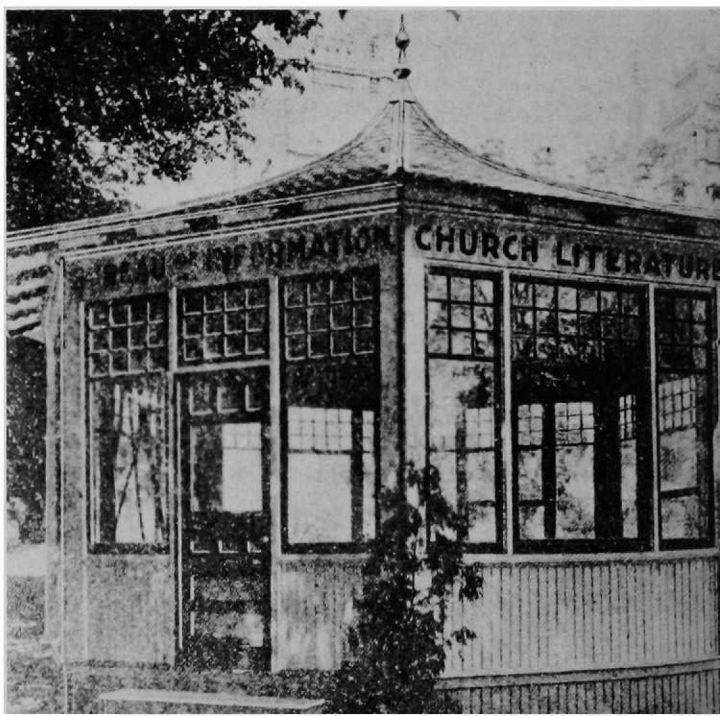
Work on the Temple, commenced at a time when the handful of settlers in the valley were living in crude log shelters, some of them in tents and wagons, moved forward slowly but steadily. Interminable trains of oxen dragged in the great granite blocks, slung by chains from the lumbering carts, while on the square crews of masons and stonecutters chiseled and hammered incessantly, fashioning the stone for placement in the walls.

Arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in Utah in 1868 temporarily retarded work on the project as the call for laborers on the great trans-continental line was deemed imperative. Inevitably, however, the com-



*The Latter-day Saint Endowment House, located on the northwest corner of the block, was dedicated May 5, 1855, and continued in use until November, 1889. The old structure was used for Temple ordinance work and other ceremonies.*

*The first Bureau of Information Building has been replaced by the modern building which contains many interesting relics of the early history of the West and the Church.*



ing of the iron horse speeded the work, as by 1873 a branch track was built to the quarries, and another track, from the main line up South Temple Street and actually into Temple Square, permitted hauling the massive stones directly to the building site.

At the time of President Young's death in 1877, the walls had attained a height of twenty feet above ground. In the next fifteen years work proceeded at a comparatively accelerated pace, and as the spires began to take shape, a feverish anxiety to complete the work seems to have seized the people. The capstone was placed on April 6, 1892, in ceremonies in which fervent worship and thanksgiving were intermingled with jubilant celebration. Exactly twelve months later the interior was finished and the great structure completed and dedicated.

For forty years the people had toiled, suffered, struggled, and sacrificed to build the Temple, expending some \$4,000,000 in the process. And concurrently they had built homes, chapels, farms, communities, industries, and a great commonwealth encompassing the Intermountain West.

The magnificent building has a foundation sixteen feet wide and sixteen feet deep, upon which rise the walls, nine feet thick at the base and tapering to six feet at the top. The Temple is 186 feet long by 118 wide, and the central east tower, highest of the six, reaches 210 feet skyward. Surmounting it is the 12½ foot statue of the Angel Moroni, made of hammered copper thickly overlaid with gold leaf, sounding from his trumpet the tidings of the restoration of the gospel in the latter days.

Immediately west of the Temple stands the Mormon Tabernacle, an immense auditorium 250 feet long, 150 feet wide, 80 feet high, elliptical in shape, and topped by a massive roof resting like a great inverted bowl on forty-four pillars or buttresses. Of cut sandstone masonry, these supports are each nine feet from the outside to the inside of the building, three feet in thickness and from fourteen to twenty feet high. The spaces between them are occupied for the most part by huge double doors which swing outward, permitting full ventilation and circulation of air during pleasant weather, and rapid egress from the building at all times.

The roof, a marvel of engineering for the period in which it was conceived, is a ten-foot-thick span of wooden lattice truss construction, the maze of timbers fastened together by wooden pegs or dowels and rawhide bindings. In recent years the exterior shingles have been replaced by a metal covering.

The building was started in 1863 and was sufficiently completed to accommodate the General Conference of the Church held in October, 1867. A spacious gallery, forming a giant U around three sides of the au-

ditorium, was added in 1870, giving the building a total seating capacity of close to eight thousand.

There have been several recorded versions of the origin of the idea for the Tabernacle's unique design. One is that Brigham Young patterned it after the construction of the ordinary umbrella; another, that he conceived it after reflecting on the strength of half an eggshell which lay before him on a table; still another, that he was impressed by the acoustical quality resulting from a shell-shaped wall at the rear of the old tabernacle building, similar in form to the band and orchestra "shells" of later date; and finally, his own reported statement that the design was inspired "by the best sounding board in the world — the roof of my mouth."

Whichever the case, the result is a building of world renown, not only for its unique beauty and utility, but for its unmatched acoustical qualities as well. Original cost of the structure was about \$300,000, exclusive of the cost of the organ.

The first tabernacle pipe organ was built by an Englishman, Joseph Ridges, in Australia, whither he had emigrated, and where he joined the Mormon Church. He dismantled the organ and brought it by sailing vessel to California in 1856, and thence by mule train to Utah. It was set up in the Old Tabernacle and was first played for regular services on October 11, 1857.

When the new Tabernacle was being planned, Brigham Young requested Ridges to build an organ of a size and quality in keeping with the new structure. After examination of specimens of wood from various parts of the West, a particular type of pine growing near St. George was decided upon, and great timbers were hauled the 350 miles by ox team for construction of the pipes. Ridges himself went to Boston to purchase such items as ivory for the keys, spring wire, thin sheet brass, soft fluff leather for the valves, and such other materials as could not be made or obtained in the pioneer settlement. These too were transported by team from the nearest railroad terminus, and the project was begun. Home-made nails, glue boiled up in great pots just outside the Tabernacle walls, rawhide and leather from the pelts of Utah cattle and calves, all went into the great instrument which was put into operation for the October Conference of 1867, but was not completely finished for another three years.

At that time the organ had two manuals, 27 pedals, 2,638 pipes — the largest 32 feet in length — and 35 stops. It was hand-pumped. Some years later a water wheel placed in a channel of City Creek, which flowed beneath the building, powered the organ. The instrument has been rebuilt, added upon and improved many times in the years since, until it is now

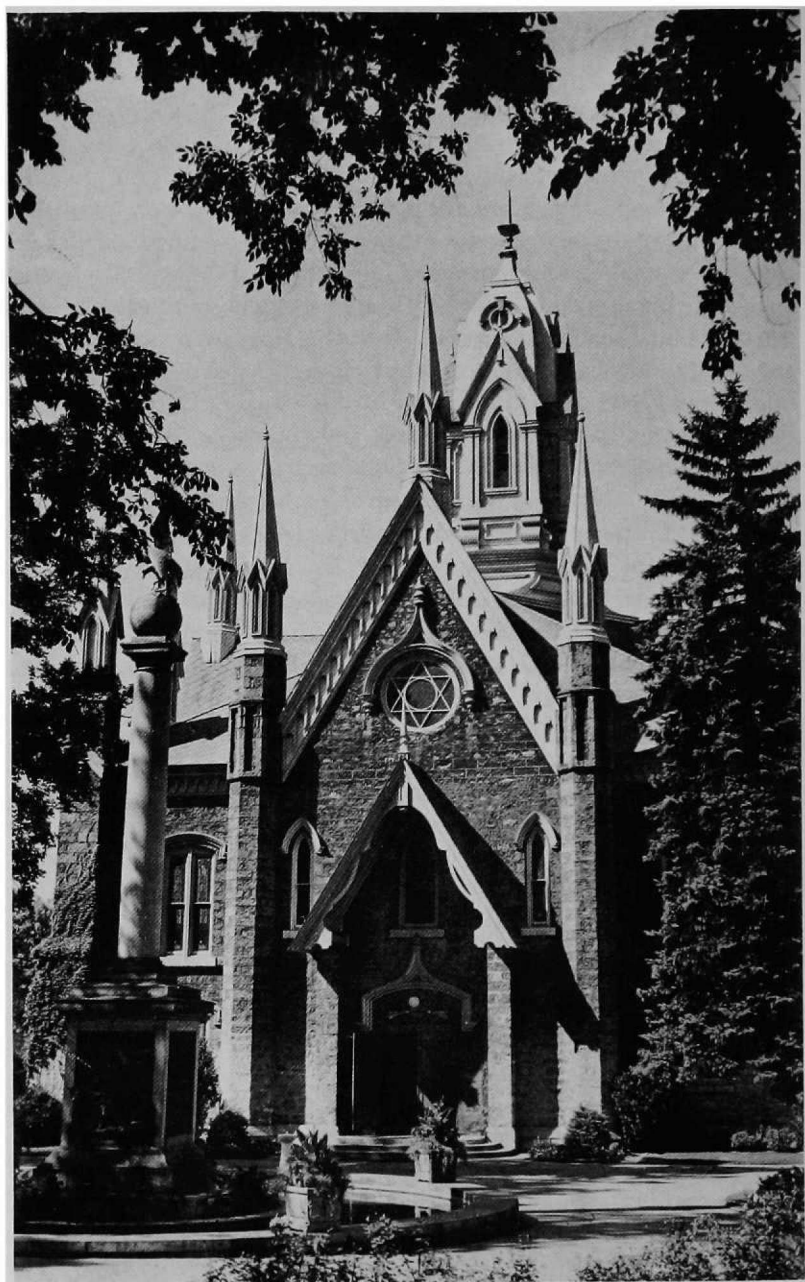
recognized as one of the finest in the world. And some of the original pipes, made of southern Utah pine, are still in use. From the days of the first bowery, fine choral music has been a distinguishing feature and tradition on Temple Square, and the present 375-voice Mormon Tabernacle Choir, dating its history back more than a century, has won world acclaim. Over the years, in addition to providing music for General Conference and other church services, the choir has concertized extensively throughout the United States and abroad. It has been featured at world's fairs and expositions, has sung in the White House for two presidents — Taft in 1909 and Eisenhower in 1958 — at Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, Philadelphia's Academy of Music, and a score of other famous auditoriums and concert halls. In 1955 it made a triumphant six-weeks' tour of the musical capitals of Great Britain and northern Europe, and in the fall of 1958 it presented a series of concerts in principal cities of mid-eastern and eastern United States and Canada. During the course of this journey the choir added to its fast-growing record library in several recording sessions with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

On the southwest corner of Temple Square on the site of the Old Tabernacle, stands the beautiful Assembly Hall, a place of public worship to which visitors from all faiths are welcome. It was completed in 1882, partly from granite and other materials left over from the Temple construction. It too has a fine pipe organ. In addition to religious services, it is used for public gatherings, concerts and civic functions which do not require the seating capacity of the Tabernacle.

Many monuments and memorials of unusual interest are to be found about the grounds of Temple Square. Generally the first to meet the visitor's eye is the Sea Gull monument, located immediately east of the Assembly Hall, a granite shaft rising from a circular pool, and topped by two bronze birds in flight. Erected in 1913, it commemorates the occasion in 1848 when clouds of gulls from nearby Great Salt Lake swooped in, even as the settlers prayed for Divine assistance, and saved the valley's first crops from hordes of devouring crickets.

To the south of the Temple stand monuments to Joseph Smith, first Prophet and President of the Mormon Church, and his brother Hyrum, the Patriarch, who were slain by a mob in Carthage, Illinois, in 1844. Nearby another monument records the testimony of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Mormon. To the north of the Tabernacle and west of the Temple annex and greenhouse, is a memorial to the Handcart Pioneers, while nearby is a recently unveiled sculpture depicting restora-





*The beautiful L.D.S. Assembly Hall stands on the southwest corner of the Temple Block. A place of public worship, it welcomes visitors of all faiths.*

PHOTO, DESERET NEWS



tion of the Aaronic Priesthood by John the Baptist to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

In the southeast corner of the square, sheltered in a peristyle, stands an old log cabin, a typical pioneer home. Built in 1847 as part of the original pioneer fort, it was moved twice before being brought to its present location for permanent preservation. History records that this cabin was used by Captain Stansbury during 1849-50 while he was surveying this territory newly acquired from Mexico for the federal government.

The Bureau of Information, a long, two-story brick structure immediately inside the south gate, is tourist headquarters for the square. From this point the guided tours set forth; here are offered free literature, pamphlets, and tracts, and church books are sold at cost. In connection with the bureau is a museum containing thousands of relics and mementos of the early days of the church and the West. Murals on the walls tell the pioneer story, and on the upper floor are cases of utensils, weapons, costumes, tools, and artifacts of the American Indian and the peoples of distant lands — a storehouse of historical and archeological treasures.

Rolling green lawns, trim shrubs and hedges, and a profusion of colorful blooms in formal beds adorn the square from early spring until winter's snows arrive to blanket the ground and deck the stately trees in white.

Year round it is an island of peace and quiet beauty in the heart of a thriving city, a place of dignity and spirituality, rich in culture, in tradition and in history, a magnet which has drawn and made welcome millions, the great and the small, from the four corners of the world — Temple Square: Crossroads of the West.



*"Thousands have viewed the Capitol roundabout where Cyrus Dallin's plaster model of Massasoit occupied the center position for more than a quarter of a century.*

PHOTO, HAL RUMEL

## UTAH'S CAPITOLS

*By Everett L. Cooley\**

Symbols play a significant role in human relationships. Just as national and state flags have symbolic meaning to those living under a specially designated ensign, so too have capitols their special symbolism.

Closely associated with the rise of nationalism and sovereignty is the adoption of symbols representing a nation's dreams and aspirations. Aside from any functional purpose it might serve, a capitol is a symbol of nationhood, of sovereignty. More frequently than not one of the first projects undertaken in a newly formed state is the selection of a capital and the erection therein of a suitable edifice designated *the* capitol. So it was with the newly-united states in 1790, and so it was in each of the individual states as settlers made their way across the American continent.

In this the pioneers of Utah were like others who preceded them to statehood and like those who followed. Utah had scarcely settled into territorial status when her citizenry determined that a capitol should be built. In fact, the very first legislative assembly of the territory of Utah, by joint resolution, designated Pauvan Valley in central Utah as the capital. On the same day, October 4, 1851, Millard County was created by the legislature, and Fillmore City was named the county seat and the place

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\* Everett L. Cooley is Director of the State Archives, a division of the Utah State Historical Society.

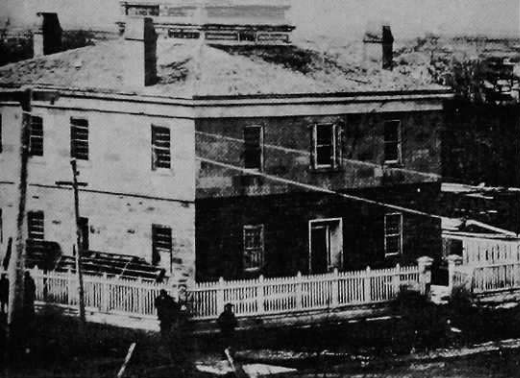
where the capitol was to be built. By the same resolution, the legislative assembly provided for the appointment of a committee to proceed to Fillmore to designate the exact location for the new capitol.

Subsequently, four men were chosen to perform this function. They were Orson Pratt, Albert Carrington, Jesse W. Fox, and William C. Staines, all prominent men in church and civic affairs. On October 28, 1851, the site for the new building was selected. Plans for the capitol were drawn by Truman O. Angel, later architect of the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City. Construction, however, progressed slowly. By 1854, almost three years after first selection of the site, the walls of the structure were not yet completed. Stones and timbers had to be hand hewn, and there was always a shortage of iron for nails. Skilled workmen were also scarce. Many new chapels, homes, and other public buildings were demanding the attention of the men skilled in the use of construction tools. Then, too, a persistent shortage of funds hampered the progress of the building. After an initial appropriation of \$20,000 from Congress, additional funds were not forthcoming despite repeated pleas and petitions from Utah.

Finally by summer 1855, the roof was placed on the east wing of the capitol, and the interior was being rushed to completion in readiness for the legislature. On December 10, 1855, the Fifth Annual Session of the Utah Territorial Legislative Assembly convened in Utah's first capitol. Tradition has it that the building was dedicated the following day (December 11) by Governor Brigham Young, who was also president of the Mormon Church.

The fifth session was the only complete session of the legislature held in Fillmore. On two other occasions, the legislators assembled there and then adjourned to Salt Lake City. The executive and judicial offices of the territory were located in Fillmore only briefly. Technically, Fillmore was the capital of Utah only until the winter of 1856, for on December 15 of that year, Salt Lake City was made Utah's capital by joint resolution of the legislature. The anticipated development of central Utah did not take place. The natural resources did not prove to be as rich and plentiful as the initial reports indicated. Fillmore did not develop into a populous metropolis to serve a prosperous agricultural and industrial area. Her facilities proved inadequate for a territorial seat of government.

Only one wing of Utah's first capitol was ever completed, and this soon suffered from neglect. Eventually, ownership of the building passed to Fillmore City. Meanwhile it served many uses — school, jail, office



building, and church. Finally, interested persons in Fillmore became aware of the historic value of the old, red sandstone structure and persuaded the governor and legislature to repossess and restore the building. In 1927, the old "Utah State House" again became the property of the people of Utah and today serves as a museum of pioneer relics. Fillmore's most famous building stands as a reminder of the plans of empire envisioned by Utah's early leaders. This was the capitol located about midway between Idaho and Arizona and near the center of Utah as it then existed — from the Sierras to the crest of the Colorado Rockies.

Prior to the construction of the capitol at Fillmore and after its abandonment, the "headquarters" for the territorial government shifted from place to place. At least five different buildings in Salt Lake City served as the meeting place for the legislative assembly, and many more served as offices for the executive and judicial branches of the government.

The legislature met at the Council House (Main and South Temple streets), the Social Hall (Social Hall Avenue), the old Salt Lake County Courthouse (Second South and Second West streets), the Salt Lake City Hall (First South near State Street), and the present Salt Lake City and County Building (Fourth South and State streets). Offices of the territorial officials were also located in these buildings at various times. In addition, just prior to Utah statehood, the territorial offices were moved into the abandoned Woman's Industrial Christian Home (present Ambassador Club) located on Fifth East near Second South.

Logic offers an explanation for the failure of Utah to provide a capitol for the governing officialdom. Since the first appropriation of \$20,000 was "wasted on a capitol in a remote part of the Territory," Congress refused to grant further funds for government buildings in Utah. Reasons are also to be found in the Mormon-Gentile struggle which persisted from 1858 to 1896. The Mormon citizenry of Utah consistently elected Mormons to the territorial legislature and to city and county offices. The territorial executive and judicial offices, on the other hand, were generally occupied by Gentiles appointed from Washington. Holding diverse views on both civil and religious matters, the two groups transmitted conflicting reports to Washington. Consequently, Congress proved unsympathetic to appeals for additional funds to construct government buildings.

Even after statehood came to Utah, there was no sudden rush to erect a capitol. The scars of forty years of strife were not sufficiently healed to permit unity to a degree that the people of Utah could work together toward the creation of their symbol of statehood, a state capitol. Although the Salt Lake City fathers, in 1888, donated approximately twenty acres



of land on the north bench overlooking the city, a building was not erected thereon until 1916. Almost thirty years elapsed from the beginning steps to the final completion of Utah's magnificent capitol. It was a trying period for those who worked valiantly for the building.

Positive action took place when the 1909 Utah Legislature provided for the creation of a seven man Capitol Commission with power to select the design and to expend not over \$2,500,000 on a "suitable State Capitol."

In the same session of the legislature a bill was passed which permitted a special one mill levy if approved by vote of the people. The measure failed to win approval, and it appeared that another prolonged period of waiting would follow. But an unexpected windfall to Utah brightened the otherwise gloomy picture. On March 1, 1911, the sum of \$798,546 in inheritance taxes was paid into the state treasury by Mrs. E. H. Harriman for the settlement of the Harriman estate.<sup>1</sup> The legislature responded with a \$1,000,000 bond, and the capitol was an ensured reality.

Governor William Spry promptly exercised his powers by selecting the members of the Capitol Commission. They were: John Dern and John Henry Smith, Salt Lake City; M. S. Browning, Ogden; and C. E. Loose, Provo. Governor William Spry, Secretary of State C. S. Tingey, and Attorney General A. R. Barnes were the ex-officio members. Subsequently, David Mattson succeeded C. S. Tingey and Anthon H. Lund was appointed to the vacancy left by the death of John Henry Smith. Mr. Tingey was named secretary of the commission to replace John K. Hardy.

One of the first actions of the newly-organized commission was a tour of inspection to several eastern capitals. Plans of the capitols of Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Kentucky were procured and studied. These served as guides for the preparation of a program of competition to select an architect and design for Utah's capitol.

Numerous resident and several nonresident architectural firms participated in the capitol competition. In March 1912, the award for design was made to Mr. Richard K. A. Kletting, of Salt Lake City.

Nine months later plans for the building were sufficiently complete that excavation could begin. Mr. P. J. Moran, of Salt Lake City, was given the contract for excavating, filling, and making rough grades on the site. With the equipment all in readiness, the commission broke ground on December 26, 1912. Mayor Samuel C. Park, of Salt Lake City, in address-

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<sup>1</sup> Edward H. Harriman, president of the Union Pacific Railroad, died in 1909. A 5 per cent tax on the Utah portion of his property resulted in the payment of the \$798,000 to the state.

ing the crowd gathered to witness the ground-breaking ceremonies, voiced the feelings of frustration and hope of many. He said, in part:

We are about to realize the hope of decades and the fruition of the efforts of patriotic citizens for a quarter of a century. Here, today, we break ground for the material edifice that shall house the offices of our chief executive, our legislative and judicial bodies. The time has been long and we have waited and labored in patience, but the reward is now certain, for the means are available and the people have decreed that in this place a house shall be built which, for its purpose, shall be one of the most beautiful as well as one of the most modern of public buildings in the world.

Governor Spry followed Mayor Park and also spoke of the "many years of waiting" for the building. But he concluded with an expression of hope that the wait was not in vain, for "We expect this building to be one which will be a joy as long as it might stand, and we propose to build it so that it shall stand through all time."

The contractor selected to erect the building was James Stewart & Company, of New York and Salt Lake City. The initial contract, exclusive of extra costs for marble, furnishings, and certain other items, amounted to \$1,106,000. Other contracts for heating, lighting, decorating, and special purposes were subsequently awarded to other firms. But even before construction began, commercial clubs, labor unions, church organizations, and other pressure groups memorialized the Capitol Commission to choose Utah firms, Utah labor, and Utah materials in the construction. One of the most perplexing problems faced by the commission was whether to use Utah marble for the interior construction of the capitol or less-expensive Georgia marble.

While the commission favored the use of Utah products wherever the material was of good quality, the difference in price forced the use of non-Utah materials for some purposes. The commission decided to use mostly Georgia marble on the main floor with Utah marble in the legislative chambers and Supreme Court. However, plans were modified to increase the use of Utah stone. Birdseye marble or golden travis from Utah County was selected for the House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the State Reception Room (Gold Room). The front vestibule was constructed of Utah onyx or travertine, and the stone was also generously used in the Senate Chamber. Sanpete oölite or white sandstone was chosen for the walls of the ground floor. The monolithic columns,

the walls and stairs of the main floor, and the railings were the only parts of the building constructed of the gray Georgia marble.

A lively contest ensued over the selection of materials for the exterior of the building. Quarries were uncovered in Sanpete County, in Beaver County, and in the canyons adjacent to Salt Lake City with the hope that stone from these areas would be used. However, the granite of the Consolidated Stone Company, in Little Cottonwood Canyon, was selected because the quarry had been successfully developed for past construction such as the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City.

Although the original plans for the capitol called for fifty-two, sectional, unpolished granite columns on the exterior of the front and sides, the commission was pressured to spend considerable time and study devoted to the possible use of polished, monolithic columns. At first, polished Indiana or Vermont granite was urged by Junius F. Wells, representative of the non-Utah firms. When the commission took a definite stand against the Vermont and Barre granites, various groups and individuals then urged the use of polished Utah columns — even at an additional expense of \$200,000.

Several commission members, especially Governor Spry, opposed the monolithic columns because of the extra cost and the developing shortage of funds. The Utah Association of Architects and the Utah State Board of Architects opposed their use on æsthetic grounds — pointing out that the polished columns “would produce a discordant, rather than a harmonious note” to the exterior of the capitol. By a simple majority vote, the commission finally agreed to adhere to the original plans and retain the unpolished, sectional columns.

The saving on this item alone permitted the expenditure of considerably more funds on the finishing and furnishing of the building. Even so, the commission had to go to the legislature on two different occasions for an increase of funds to complete the building. Although a limitation of \$2,500,000 had been set, this was exceeded by \$239,000. The increases, notwithstanding, original plans for “extensive pieces of art work” were never fulfilled. Funds were just not available. The only art works commissioned were paintings for the House Chamber, the Senate Chamber, the State Reception Room, the lunettes, and a portrait of the Capitol Commissioners.

Murals in the House Chamber were painted by eastern artists A. E. Forringer (Jim Bridger and the Discovery of Great Salt Lake) and Vincent Aderente (Dream of Brigham Young or Brigham Young Laying Out Salt Lake City). The mural in the Senate Chamber was painted by

local artists A. B. Wright and Lee Greene Richards and shows a scene looking westward across Utah Lake. Lewis Schettle, of New York, purportedly executed the mural in the "Gold Room." A local artist, Girard Hale, and Gilbert White, of New York, teamed up to win the contract for the murals in the lunettes of the main corridor. These show the pioneers entering the valley and an irrigation scene. The portrait of the Capitol Commissioners was painted by J. W. Clawson, of Salt Lake City.

Although the original plans for the building called for statuary in the niches of the rotunda, the commission had no funds left for sculpture. Three of the niches were eventually filled. In 1928 the women of the state contributed to the creation of a bust of Emmeline B. Wells, prominent Mormon pioneer leader. This bust was executed in marble by Cyrus E. Dallin. The second bust placed in a niche was of Simon Bamberger, governor of Utah, 1916-1920. This was presented to the state by the family of the governor in 1943, and was sculptured by Torlief Knaphus. The third niche was filled in 1956, when the National Society, Sons of Utah Pioneers presented to the state a bust of Brigham Young, governor of Utah, 1851-1857. This art work was also the creation of Torlief Knaphus, local artist.

There was also a proposal for a piece of statuary for the center of the rotunda. But again, lack of money prevented the execution of this plan.<sup>2</sup> Dallin's "Signal of Peace" which stood before the Hall of Relics during Utah's semicentennial celebration, then moved to the Salt Lake City and County Building, was moved to the rotunda of the capitol on orders of the Capitol Commission.<sup>3</sup> At a later date it was transferred to the ground floor when a plaster model of Cyrus E. Dallin's "Chief Massassoit" was given the center position in the rotunda. Here it was admired for a quarter of a century by thousands of capitol visitors. In the summer of 1958, a bronze casting was made of Massassoit which was then mounted on a handsome pedestal in the rose garden in front of the capitol. Two other bronze statues to replace Massassoit are located in the main corridor beneath the east-west arches. These heroic statues were designed to commemorate the work of Daniel C. Jackling, prime mover behind the successful exploitation of Utah's low-grade copper ores, and Thomas L. Kane, pacifier and friend of the Mormons. The statuary is the creation of Avard

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<sup>2</sup> Cyrus E. Dallin is reported to have created a model of "Chief Washakie" which was placed under the dome of the capitol. A placard was supposedly attached thereto inviting contributions for the creation of a heroic bronze of the Shoshoni chief. The whereabouts of the model and the ultimate disposition of the contributions remain a mystery.

<sup>3</sup> Cyrus Dallin, unhappy with the state's failure to commission some of his art work, on May 17, 1918, assaulted the plaster model and "willfully" broke off the right leg.

Fairbanks and Ortho Fairbanks, respectively. Both of these bronze pieces and the bronze Massasoit were presented to the state of Utah through the efforts of Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr.

Two unexpected demands upon the funds for the capitol prevented the commission from carrying out all their plans to decorate and finish the building. Shortly after the beginning of the construction, it became quite apparent that the twenty acres deeded by Salt Lake City for the capitol would be insufficient land to adequately landscape a building of that size. Furthermore, the commission desired the capitol to be placed on the State Street and Seventh Avenue axis. Such a plan necessitated the acquisition of land to the east. Both the building architect and landscape architect recommended that the building be located so that it would offer an unobstructed view from the south, east, and west. To prevent obtrusive homes from being erected on the east of the capitol, along the rim of City Creek Canyon, the commission purchased the homes already standing along this rim and also the remaining unimproved lots. The capitol grounds thereby included all the property along the canyon rim from Second North to Fourth North streets. The Salt Lake City Commission co-operated in the project by moving East Capitol Street eastward to permit the capitol grounds to be extended in that direction. The purchase of this land and moving of the street necessitated additional excavation to provide a site which would harmonize with the surrounding grades and approaches. Although the commission desired additional land to the west, it had to forego this because of insufficient funds. (Subsequently, the legislature provided funds to the Loan Commission to acquire the needed land to the west.)

Despite the many problems, the work moved forward at a rapid pace. By April 4, 1914, fifteen and one-half months after breaking ground, the capitol was sufficiently advanced that the cornerstone was laid in place with an elaborate ceremony. Representatives from state and city government participated along with men from church and industry. The program was as follows:

Invocation: Reverend Elmer I. Goshen

Address: Governor William Spry — "The State"

Address: President Joseph F. Smith — "The Pioneers"

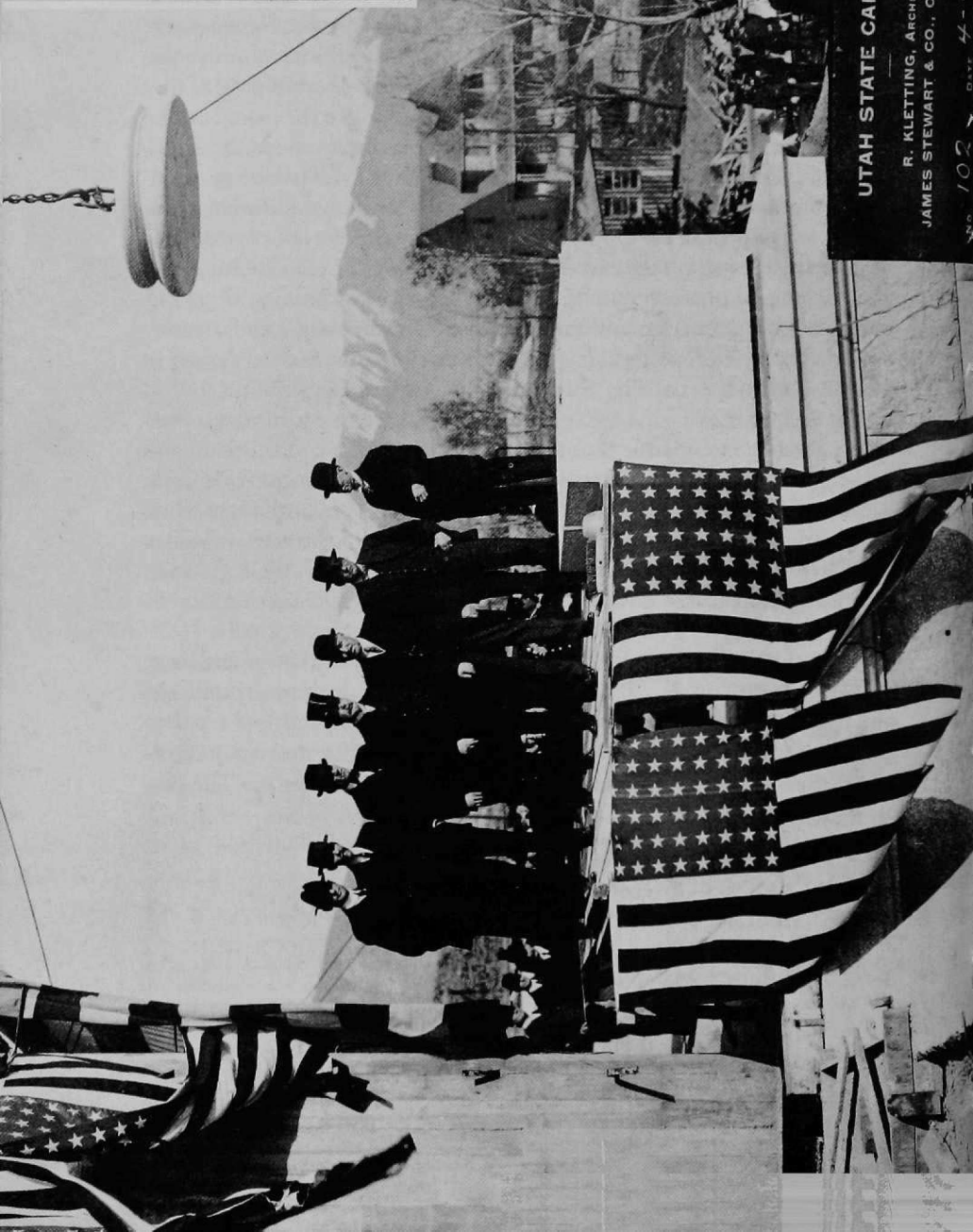
Address: Mayor Samuel C. Park — "The Capital City"

Address: Mr. John Dern — "Our Industries"

Laying Cornerstone: Governor William Spry

Benediction: Father W. K. Ryan

Music: Utah State Industrial School Band



# UTAH STATE CAPITAL

R. KLETTING, ARCHITECT  
JAMES STEWART & CO., CONTRACTORS

NO. 102 DATE 4-4-14



*Capitol Commission members at the cornerstone laying. Left to right: A. R. Barnes, C. S. Tingey, David Mattson, William Spry, John Dern, C. E. Loose, M. S. Browning.*

*R.K.A. Kletting (1858-1943) Besides designing the Capitol, Kletting influenced greatly the face of the City, designing such landmarks as: the McIntyre and Felt buildings, the Old Deseret News Building, Cullen Hotel, West High School, and Saltair Pavilion.*

A metal box containing copies of newspapers of the state, photographs of the Capitol Commissioners, copies of church books, and various coins of the period was placed in the cornerstone and sealed in place by the governor.

The commission urged the contractor to double his efforts to finish the work on the third floor so that the Eleventh Session of the Utah State Legislature could meet in the new building. By November, it appeared that the legislative chamber would be sufficiently finished for the convening of the legislature. Unfortunately, delays occurred, thereby forcing the continued use of the Salt Lake City and County Building. One month after convening, however, on February 11, 1915, the legislature was able to move to the new capitol to hold the remainder of its session.

More than a year passed before all the executive and judicial officers of the state could occupy their new quarters. And it was not until October 9, 1916, that the building was considered completed and could be opened for public inspection. On the afternoon of that day, at two o'clock, the Utah State Capitol was formally opened and presented to the people of Utah.

The afternoon program was:

Invocation: Reverend J. E. Carver

Instrumental Trio: Willard Flashman, Oge Jorgensen,

Mrs. Edward T. McGurrian

Patriotic Solo: "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean,"

Professor A. C. Lund

Address: Governor William Spry

Soprano Solo: "Caro Nome" — Rigoletto,

Miss Edna Anderson

Reading: "Spirit of the Pioneer," written for the

occasion by Herbert S. Auerbach — read by

A.C. Lund

Address: President Joseph F. Smith

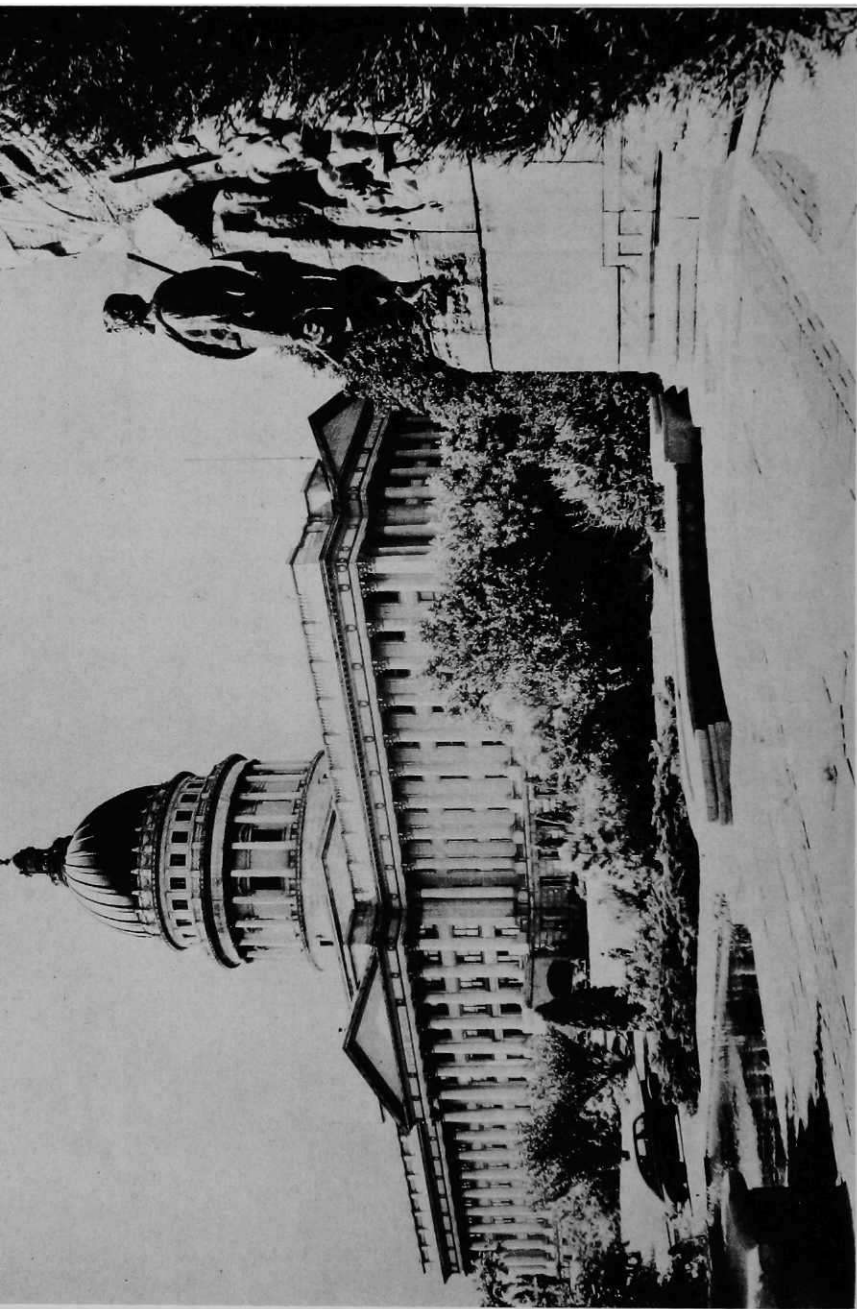
Tenor Solo: "Che Gelida Manina" — La Boheme,

Professor John T. Hand

Solo: Selected, Mrs. Lucy Kirkman

Unanimous vote of acceptance of the building by all present.

Benediction: Right Reverend Joseph S. Glass



*The Mormon Battalion monument was erected by the state of Utah to commemorate the march of five hundred Mor-*

*mon volunteers from Kansas to California during the Mexican War. Dedicated in 1927, Gilbert Riswald was the sculptor.*

The program was followed by a public reception — the guests were received by the governor and the members of the Capitol Commission. It was estimated that more than thirty thousand people viewed the capitol this day.<sup>4</sup>

And what was their reaction to what they saw? While we do not have written accounts of the many visitors, we do have the feelings of correspondents for newspapers and periodicals. With one accord, they proclaimed it certainly the most beautiful public building in the state if not in the nation. Paraphrasing the words of one writer (in *The New West Magazine*), Utah's capitol was declared to be *the* most magnificent building of its kind in the nation. The magnificence of the interior was attributed to the simple, uncluttered design of the main floor with its beautifully proportioned dome, marbled arches, and graceful stairways.

The general style of architecture of the capitol is Corinthian. It is 404 feet long, 240 feet wide, and 285 feet to the top of the dome. The inside measurement from the ground floor to the highest point inside the dome is 165 feet. Near the base of the dome, in the spandrels, are four murals depicting important scenes in Utah's history: Father Escalante entering Utah Valley, 1776; Peter Skene Ogden at Ogden River, 1828; John C. Frémont visits Great Salt Lake, 1843; and Brigham Young and the pioneers entering Salt Lake Valley, 1847. Other historical scenes are painted on the friezes of the dome. Designed by Lee Greene Richards, they were painted by local artists working under the WPA program in the 1930's. The giant chandelier hanging from the dome weighs three tons and is suspended on a chain which is ninety-five feet long and weighs in excess of three tons.

While these are the objects which are first noticed by an onlooker, other interesting sights await him who lingers to look around. One which is most impressive to some observers is the State Reception Room or what is commonly called the "Gold Room." The Gold Room gained its name from the general golden appearance in the color scheme of the room and from the extensive use of gold-leaf trim. All colors used in the room blend with the gold trim and the golden travis marble.

The original decorations for the Gold Room, including the marble but excluding the lighting fixtures and mirrors, cost approximately \$20,000. In 1955-56 the repainting of the room alone cost \$6,500, while the reupholstering of the furniture in the Queen of England's coronation velvet

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<sup>4</sup> A newspaper account of the dedication ceremony, said that the onlookers overwhelmed the building and the seats reserved for the Tabernacle Choir. The choir was unable to perform.

cost \$19,905. Of Circassian walnut, the furniture was provided by Newton & Hoit Company at a cost of \$3,022. The rug is a Scotch chenille made especially for the room by Templeton Brothers, of Glasgow, Scotland. Its cost to the state was \$3,000.

Still other items of interest are the numerous exhibits on the ground floor. Here are portrayed the economic and recreational opportunities to be found in Utah's twenty-nine counties. On the same floor are the displays of dinosaur footprints, a huge block of coal, and the famed "Mormon Meteor," the racing car of the late Ab Jenkins, former mayor of Salt Lake City.

While originally the top floor of the capitol was to serve as an art gallery, the art collection of the Utah State Institute of Fine Arts is now scattered throughout the building. H. L. A. Culmer, Edwin Evans, Alvin Gittins, John Hafen, B. F. Larson, Henri Moser, LeConte Stewart, Florence Ware, A. B. Wright, and Mahonri Young are a few of the artists whose work is on display.

Whether the visitor to Salt Lake approaches from east, south, or west, he gains a glimpse of the capitol as soon as he enters the valley — even though the point of entry be twenty miles distant from Capitol Hill. The general impression gained from the first glimpse is one of grandeur. The feeling is not altered upon closer examination. The capitol grounds are gracefully sloped and appropriately landscaped. The plantings are arranged to offer color and beauty throughout the year. The green and blue of the evergreens are predominant in winter and early spring. These give way to the soft, warm pinks of the cherry blossoms, which are in turn replaced by the various shades of purple, and lavender of lilacs. Still later come the colorful hawthornes with their bold reds and finally the brilliant oranges and reds of the pyracantha. And all the while, the roses, the tulips, the zinnias and other annuals add their splashes of color for the enjoyment of the "camera bug." For surely the capitol is one of the most photographed objects in the state. The building, the grounds, and the Mormon Battalion monument offer studies in color and design which even the most sophisticated photographer cannot resist.<sup>5</sup> Millions of spectators have thrilled to the sights of a visit to Utah's State Capitol.

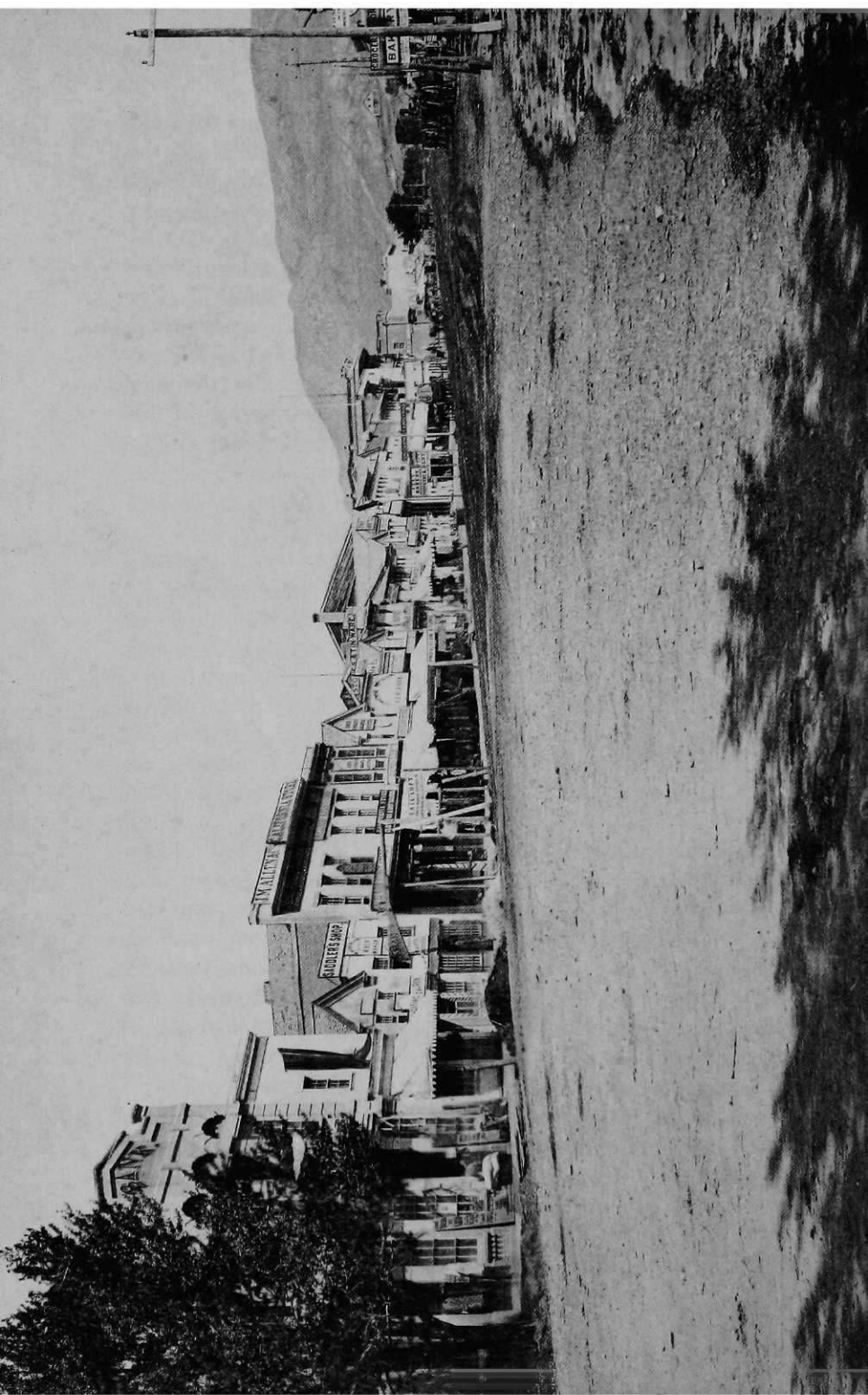
Through the years the uncluttered interior of the capitol has undergone some changes. For a quarter of a century the beautiful edifice overlooking the Valley of the Great Salt Lake adequately filled the needs of

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<sup>5</sup> The Mormon Battalion monument was erected by the state of Utah to commemorate the march of 500 Mormon volunteers from Kansas to California during the Mexican War. The sculptor for the monument was Gilbert Riswald, of Chicago.

state office holders. Then gradually state government outgrew the building. Temporary partitions were added, new offices erected. The capitol lost some of its simple charm. Various proposals were made to relieve the over-crowding which worsened with the creation of each new agency of government and each expansion of the old ones.

Finally in 1957, the state legislature approved the construction of a new office building to eliminate the congestion in the capitol. By 1959 plans were approved, and the contract let for a new building designed to harmonize with the grandeur of the old. Additional funds have been requested of the legislature to remodel and restore the capitol to its original beauty. For it is generally agreed that the original plans were good, that the Capitol Commission built well and created a symbol befitting the dignity of the state of Utah.






*Main Street about 1870, looking north from Second South. The old Walker Bank is on the corner at left. In the distance is the Arsenal on the hill on the site now occupied by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Building.*

## MAIN STREET: SALT LAKE CITY

*By A. R. Mortensen*



Every village, town, and city in America has a main street, often appropriately named Main Street. Salt Lake City is no exception, though for many years its most important business street was called East Temple; and for a short period during the pioneer years, this thoroughfare had earned the unsavory sobriquet "Whiskey Street."

While the very first stores to be built in Salt Lake City were not located on Main Street, it was not long before this street became the chief commercial center of the City of the Saints. It was not until 1849, two years after the arrival of the first settlers, that the first regular stock of goods was brought to Utah. In that year, James M. Livingston and Charles A. Kinkead with goods valued at \$20,000 established their store in the adobe house of John Pack in the Seventeenth Ward at the southwest corner of First North and West Temple. The location was convenient to Union Square (West High School) where many of the immigrants stopped temporarily upon their arrival in the valley. During the next year Livingston and Kinkead erected the first store building on Main Street, about a third of a block south of the Council House then being built on the southwest corner of Main and South Temple. In this same year, 1850, the second mercantile firm, Holliday and Warner, set up business in Salt Lake City. They first opened up in a little adobe schoolhouse on Brigham Young's

block just east of the Eagle Gate. William H. Hooper, who later became one of Utah's leading businessmen, was in charge of their business. Later this firm moved to the corner of South Temple and Richards Street, where now stands the Beneficial Life Insurance Building.

The third store in the city, and the second to be built on Main Street, was opened by John and Enoch Reese at about 125 South Main, where later Wells Fargo and Company was located. The fourth mercantile institution in Utah was opened by J. M. Horner and Company, and for a brief time operated on land now the site of the Hotel Utah. This firm was succeeded by the company of William H. Hooper and Thomas S. Williams. They built the third store on Main Street, on land which Williams had received as his inheritance. It was located on the northeast corner of Main and First South, now occupied by the First Security Bank. In 1857 Williams sold his interest and the firm was changed to Hooper and Eldredge.

The firm of Livingston and Bell, successors to Livingston and Kinkad, built the old Constitution Building, the first two-story commercial structure in Utah, on the ground where the latter firm had originally opened up in business on Main Street. The present Constitution Building, still standing, thus occupies the oldest commercial site on Salt Lake's oldest business thoroughfare.

For a number of years, except for the corner occupied by Hooper and Williams, the east side of Main between South Temple and First South was occupied by residences, including that of Bishop Edward Hunter, Jedediah M. Grant, and Ezra T. Benson. Daniel H. Wells soon purchased the Benson home, thereafter known as the "Wells Mansion," where he lived for many years. Later the Templeton Hotel was built on that corner, and still later the building was converted to offices; today it houses the Zions First National Bank. It was on the site of the Grant home that the present Z.C.M.I. building was erected in the middle 1870's. The Hunter home stood until 1881 when it too was torn down to make way for a business structure. The Uptown Theatre now occupies the site of the old Hunter property.

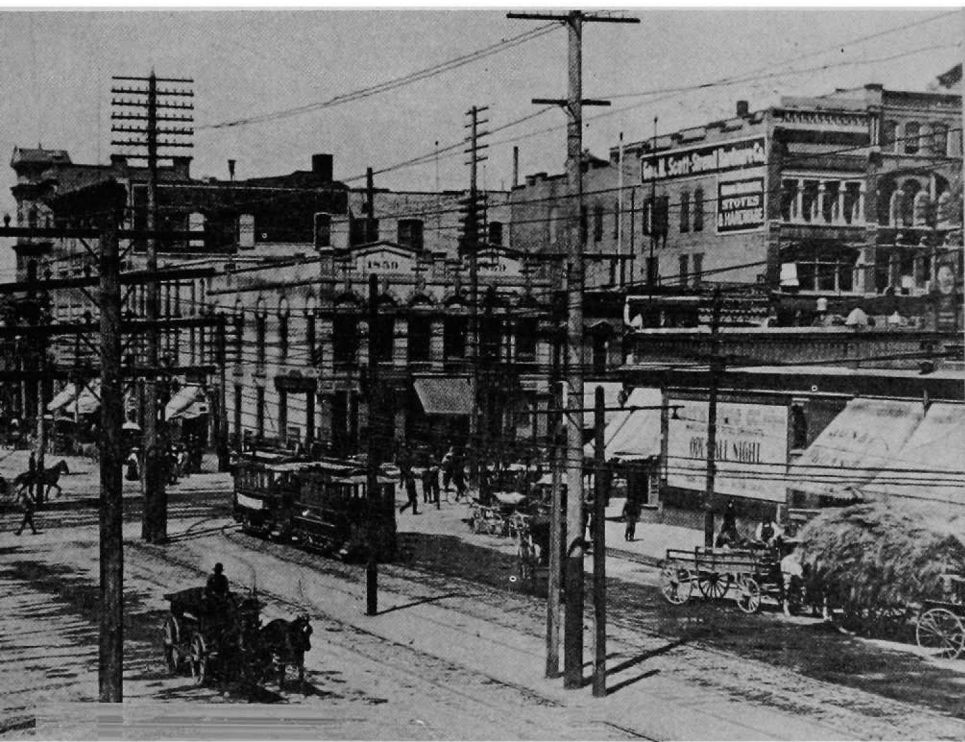
The west side of Main Street continued for many years to be the principal center of business activity. South of the old Constitution Building was the firm of Gilbert and Gerrish. Continuing on south was the store of William Nixon where many of the young merchants of the pioneer period received their business training—including the Walker brothers, Henry W. Lawrence, John Chislett, and James Needham. In the early 1860's, on the corner where later was built the McCornick Bank, now

known as the Pacific National Life Building, John Kimball and Henry W. Lawrence erected their commodious two-story commercial mart.

During most of the decade of the fifties businesses grew by ones and twos, but beginning in the later years of the period and continuing on into the early and middle sixties, business enterprises grew rapidly both in numbers and size. It was during these years that Utah's first millionaire, William Jennings, built his Eagle Emporium on the southwest corner of Main and First South. After the organization of Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution in 1868-69, Jennings purchased stock in the new institution, and his Emporium became the first home of the Z.C.M.I. William S. Godbe opened a store on the southeast corner of Main and First South, and in the early seventies built his three-story Exchange Building, presently the site of Montgomery Ward.

Contemporaneous with merchants like Kimball and Lawrence, Jennings, Godbe, and others, the famous Walker brothers branched out for themselves and opened their establishment in the block to the south of Godbe's corner. In rapid succession other businesses, large and small, began to fill in both sides of the street, and Salt Lake City's Main Street

*Second South and Main streets as they appeared at the turn of the century, looking west. Telephone, power and trolley lines clutter the scene. The automobile, which changed the face of the city, was about to come forth.*



became assured of its destiny as the commercial center of the Intermountain West.

Over the years Salt Lake City and its main business thoroughfare grew as Utah and the West grew, but with each succeeding generation it changed its face and appearance. For the first several decades Main Street was definitely "small town." The unpaved roadway was dusty in summer and muddy in winter. The gutters, then as now, quite frequently carried water, which served a variety of uses including sanitary and culinary. The placement of the telegraph poles down the east side of the street in late 1862 must have created an excitement, both for the news they carried and the appearance they made.

The late 1860's were stirring and important years in the Great Basin, as they were for all of the West. The costly and bloody Civil War ground to a halt in the middle of the decade, and once again thousands of Americans as well as foreign emigrants looking for a new and brighter future turned their faces west. Construction of the long-desired and hoped-for Pacific Railroad was commenced and completed in the four years immediately following the war. May 10, 1869, was a great day for the nation, and particularly so for Utah. That day witnessed the "wedding of the rails" at Promontory Summit at the north end of the Great Salt Lake. For the first time since the settlement of the Far West travel between the Atlantic and the Pacific was relatively easy. Symbolically, the event was also of significance, for now the nation so recently torn asunder was bound with bands of steel. Historically, the completion of the transcontinental railroad marked the end of the pioneer period.

In the more than twenty years since original settlement, the City of the Saints had grown into the capital city of the Mormon world. And yet, "a thousand miles from anywhere," it remained during those years a frontier town dependent upon its own resources except for what could be laboriously hauled by wagon across the vast distances of plains and mountains. Under the impetus of the railroad important changes took place. Great mercantile houses grew up, replacing the subsistence economy of an earlier day. Large quantities of "store goods," which heretofore could be purchased only at horrendous prices, if at all, rapidly became available. The railroad also made practicable the development of the mineral wealth of the region, previously only hoped for.

By the turn of the century Main Street was a maze of power and telephone wires and poles. The street was paved with bricks and cobblestones; the streetcar had long since made its debut, but the horse was still man's best beast of burden. A dozen years later the power and telephone



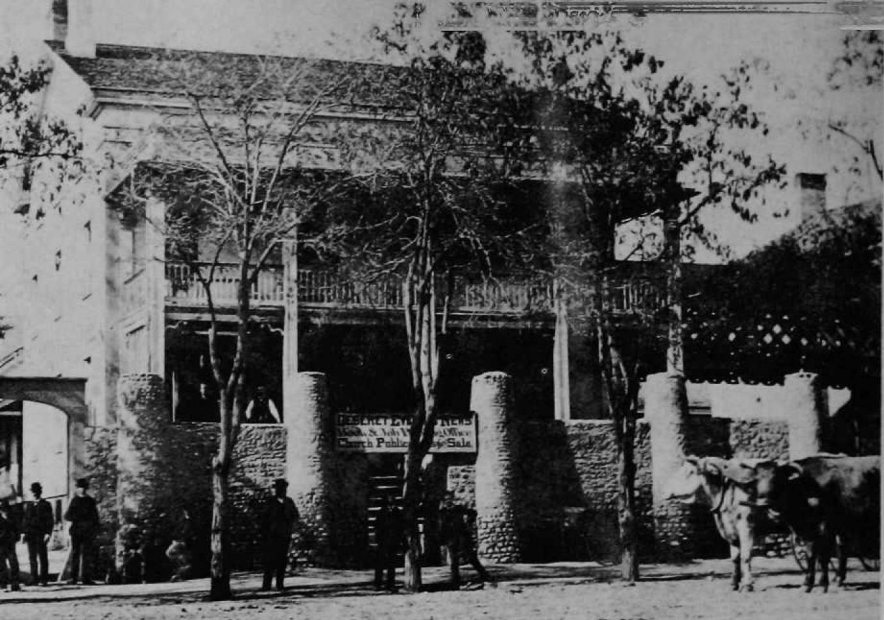
*Main Street as it appeared in 1912, as seen looking north from between First and Second South streets. The newly finished Kearns Building can be found on the left, and the recently completed Hotel Utah looms in the distance.*

lines had gone underground or down the alleys; the surface of the roadway was smooth; the trolley poles had been moved to the curb and the automobile had made its appearance, but the horse still served a useful purpose as did the ubiquitous "whitecoat" with his low-wheeled cart and broom. Except for the changing modes of transportation the pattern of Salt Lake City's Main Street was set and still remains at mid-twentieth century.

If Salt Lake City is the center of the Mormon world, if it is also the "Center of Scenic America" and the "Crossroads of the West," certainly in more ways than one the intersection of Main and South Temple and the adjacent blocks are the very heart of all this attraction. This small area of a few dozen acres is the tourist and spiritual mecca for countless numbers of people every year.

On the northeast corner stands one of America's great hotels. To be sure it is not the largest nor the most luxurious, but for nearly a half century the Hotel Utah, a veritable white palace, has offered hospitality in the form of lodging, food, and entertainment. Thousands of travelers, drummers by the score, the distinguished people of the world — to say





*This pioneer landmark stood for more than fifty years on the corner of Salt Lake City's famous intersection, at Main and South Temple streets. It served as general store, newspaper establishment, and tithing office.*

nothing of the local folk at conference and convention times — enjoy its lobby and numerous public rooms. For a generation now middle-aged, the hotel has stood on the corner, its gleaming white enamel bricks shining in the sun or rain. In 1909 construction was begun on the hotel building. On June 9, 1911, it was opened for business. The structure is 176 × 200 feet in dimension. It is ten stories high, surmounted by a tower which rises four stories above the roof gardens and is capped with a mammoth beehive set on a pedestal framing, all of which is illuminated at night with thousands of lights.

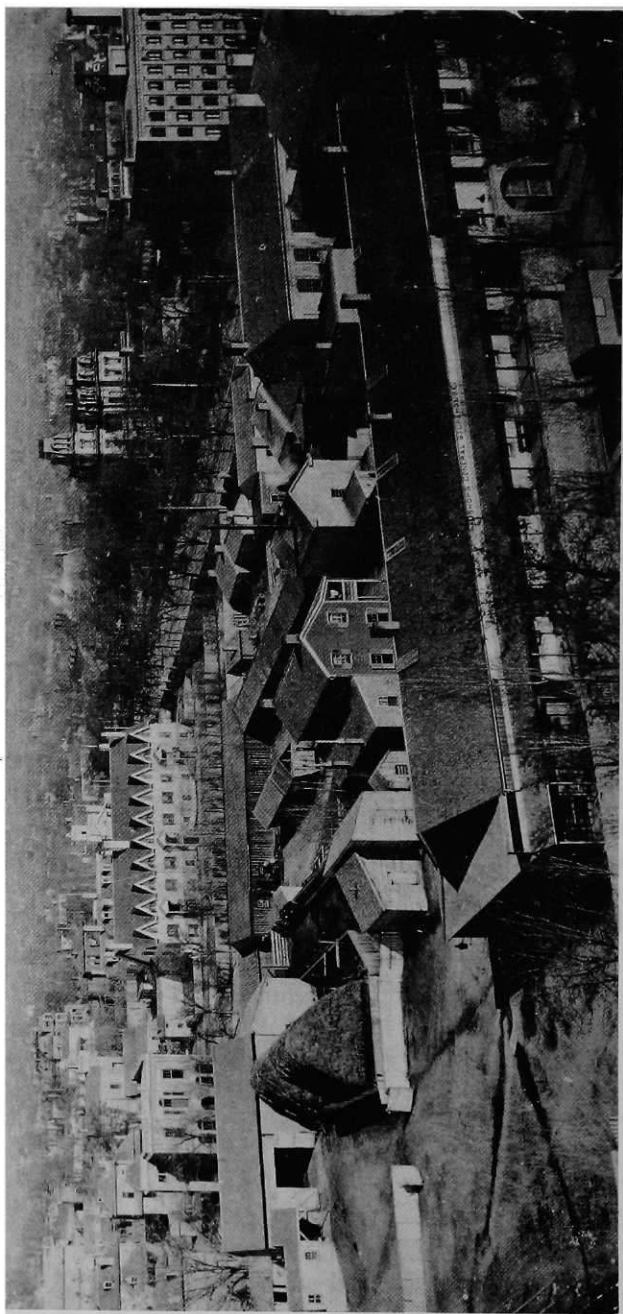
To those of longer memory it was not always thus. For nearly two generations the corner was used for other, but not less important, functions. Many persons as well as countless old photographs recall for us the earlier structures that occupied the corner. On Saturday, April 6, 1850, it is recorded in the records of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that: "The erection of a large storehouse was suggested in which to store provisions, etc., so that the needy might be supplied with necessities without delay. Such a storehouse was commenced and completed the same year." This was the beginning of the three-story building and its surrounding cobblestone wall which occupied the corner for more than fifty years. The building was referred to at various times as the Deseret Store, the General Tithing Office, and the home of one of Utah's pioneer



*Across the street, to the east of Temple Square, stands the Hotel Utah. This establishment has served its visitors and guests for nearly half a century. The view from its glassed-in "Roof Garden" in any season is a memorable one.*

newspapers. In reality, the General Tithing House was a long single-storied structure which ran north from the main building. The main structure with its double-decked porch faced south, and served the purpose of offices and a printing establishment. To the north and east were located other structures and facilities for the use of the Presiding Bishop and the Tithing Office. As all the world knows, tithing even from ancient days was a device in the form of money, goods, and property collected for the support of the church. For many years after the arrival of the pioneers in Utah, money was very scarce, and so almost all tithing receipts were paid "in kind." The collection, the processing, the distribution, and the accounting for produce, livestock, and handicraft of every variety required considerable facilities and much good management.

In addition to its services as a collection agency for church funds and goods, the old Tithing Office served as a general store for the community where surplus goods could be traded for other merchandise or tithing script which could later be traded at the store and oftentimes even changed hands as a medium of exchange. Those who are old enough recall the old Tithing Office and its adjacent yards as a wonderful place — a storehouse full of commodities, livestock in the corral, and in the store itself quantities of meat, vegetables, hardware, and general merchandise of every kind. Ap-



*The Bishop's Storehouse about 1890. Haystacks were part of the produce taken in as tithing. The Lion House is in the*

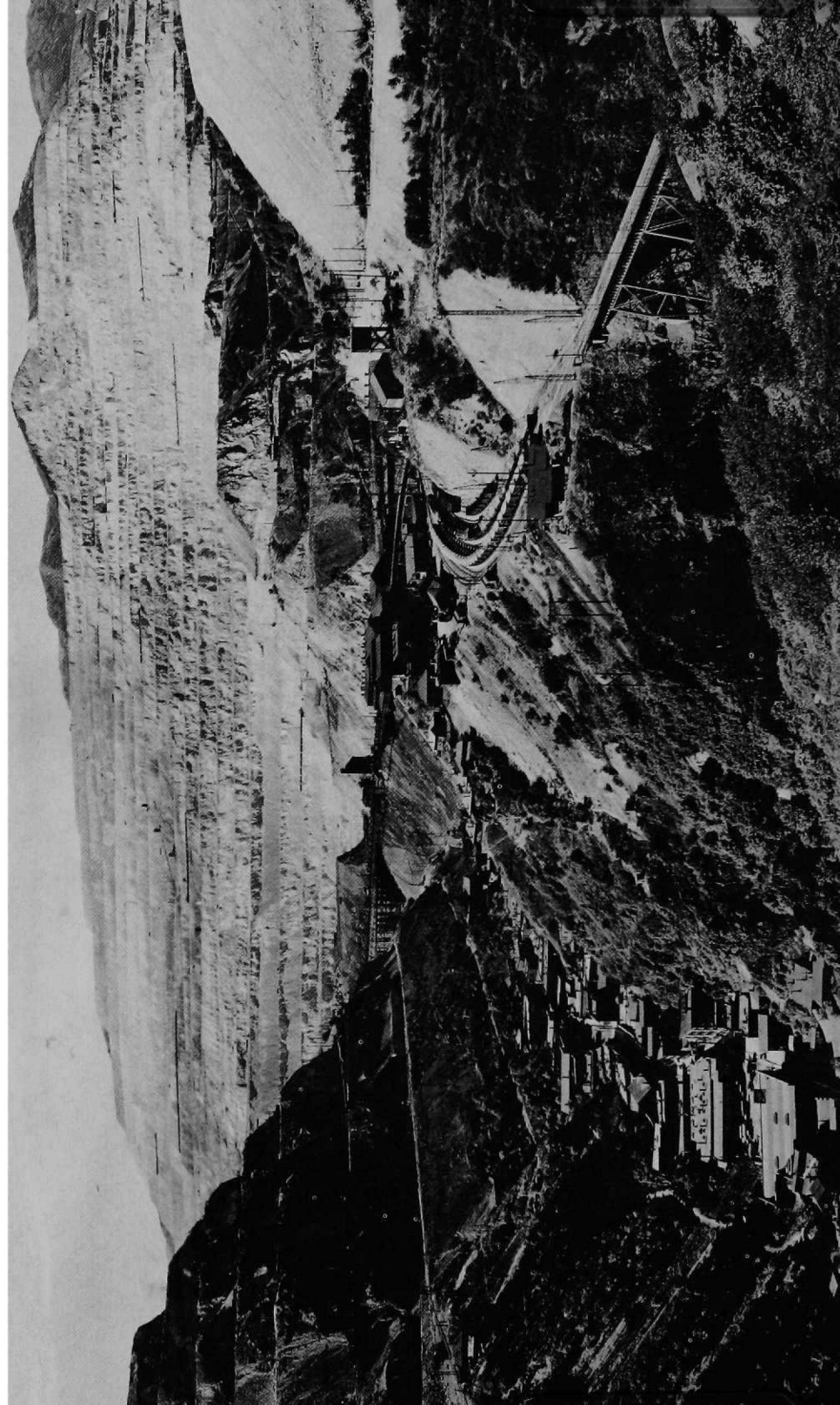
*background, and the pretentious "Amelia Palace" or Gardo House is on the corner of South Temple and State Street.*

parently even barber service was available for those who had the price and the inclination for a "store haircut."

Visitors to the city often made comment of the Tithing Office and its activity, no doubt because it was a unique institution, at least in their experience. The noted British traveler, Sir Richard Burton, who visited the home of the Saints and recorded his observations, noted that as he walked west from President Young's office toward the corner: "On the extreme west of the block, backed by a pound for estrays, which is no longer used, lies the Tithing House and Deseret Store, a long narrow, upper-storied building, with cellars, store-rooms, receiving rooms, pay rooms and writing offices. In this time of the year [August] it chiefly contains linseed and rags for paper making; after the harvest it is well stuffed with grains and cereals, which are taken instead of money payment."

In such fashion, for more than fifty years this corner and its pioneer buildings fulfilled a dual purpose. Time passed. The economy of the region changed. Tithing payments in money replaced payments in kind. The old buildings lost their original use; besides, they were old! The great white structure which now occupies that corner indeed serves a different, but not less important, function as it approaches its first half century of hospitality to Salt Lake City and her visitors.

Yes, Main Street, Salt Lake City, has come a long way since 1850. The passage of time has witnessed great changes. And now, more than a hundred years after, it still remains the business and financial center of a great inland empire.





Bingham nestled in its canyon is a rugged looking town reminiscent of the early West usually seen only in movies. It seems to "dead-end" against an impassable wall of sheer rock, high as a fifty story building.

## THE SHINING MOUNTAINS— THE OQUIRRH RANGE

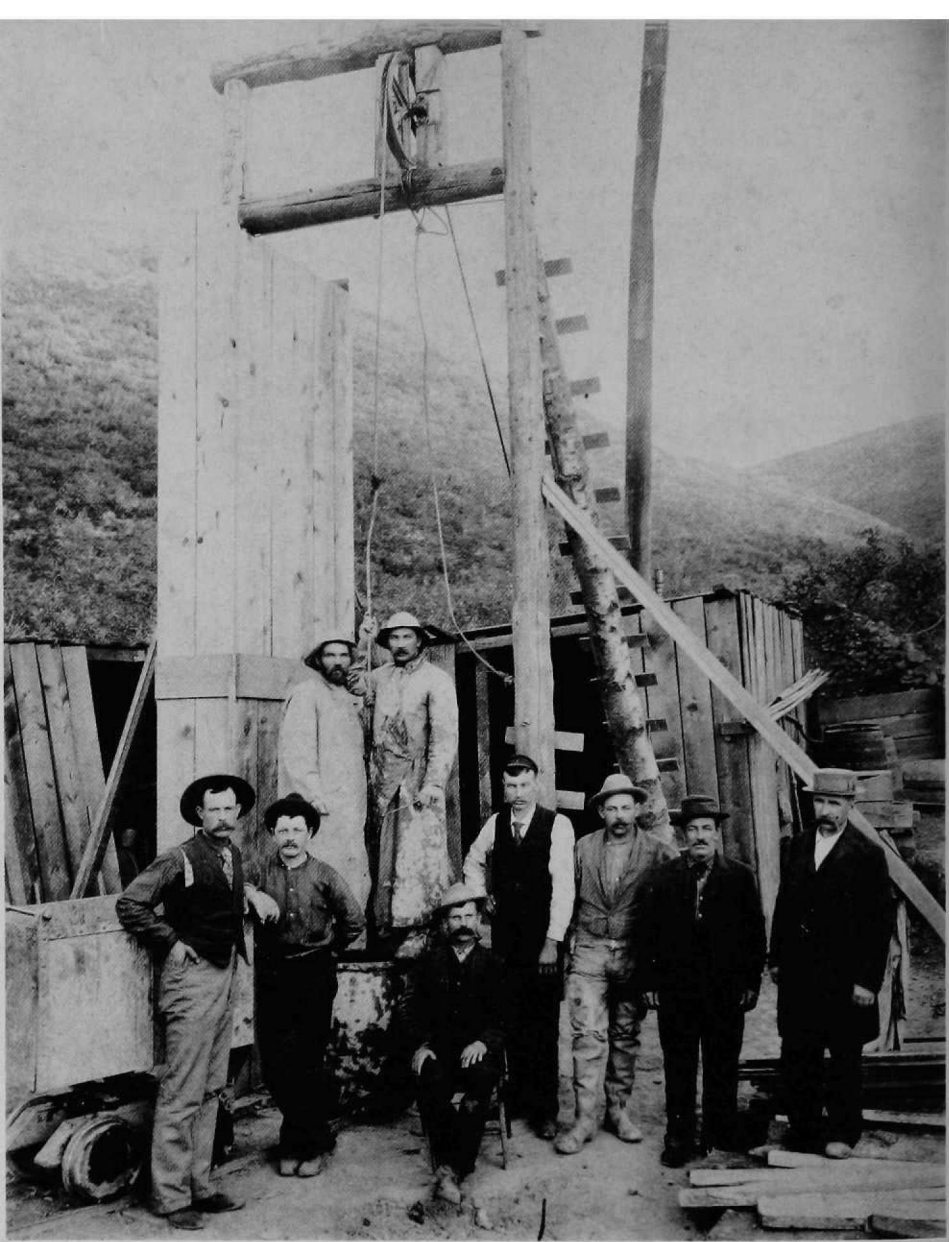
*By Jack Goodman\**

Dominating the stark horizon a dozen miles west of Salt Lake City, the Oquirrh Range rises abruptly from the southern shallows of Utah's saline sea, rearing angular peaks fully 10,000 feet high across the setting sun. Extending nearly thirty miles from north to south and buttressed to the west by the Onaqui, Stansbury, and Cedar mountains, the Oquirrhs forced California-bound emigrant wagons to seek an indirect passage toward the Great Salt Desert and the gold fields. Even now U.S. 40 and U.S. 6-50 swing around the flanks of the Oquirrhs, while the Union Pacific and Western Pacific railroads avoid piercing the range.

Except for sightseers who hasten to Bingham Canyon, glimpse Kennecott's operations, and speedily take their leave, the Oquirrh Range is little known to Utah visitors. In fact, random questioning of a few of the 200,000 Utahans who live within sight of these peaks will confirm that the Oquirrhs are *terra incognita* to most native sons — and this despite the fact that much of the state's wealth has come from this range the Paiutes named Oquirrh, or "Shining Mountains."

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\* Jack Goodman is a "transplanted" westerner from New York. A writer with experience in radio, tv, and newspaper work, he is presently active in one of the West's large advertising agencies. He is also regional correspondent for the *New York Times* and information research specialist for the Utah State Parks Commission.



*The early days of "boom and bust" in Mercur are recalled by these early day miners ready to go down in the bucket at the Cannon shaft. The town had its beginnings in 1869 when Colonel Connor's Volunteers prospected in all the mountains fringing the Salt Lake Valley.*

In the days of the "Utah War" and of booming mining camps, much of the territory's significant history was written in the shadows of these peaks and canyons. Along with historical interest and mineral wealth, there is unusual beauty to be found in the Oquirrh by those who will seek it out. There are unsuspected forest glens viewed against a background of harsh, glaring desert. There is Middle Canyon, where Tooele County officials recently carved a passable road to open spreading views across a vast countryside. Almost anywhere upon the slopes of these mountains the visitor can stumble across a deserted mine shaft, an abandoned railroad grade, or an empty miner's cabin recalling a vanished era. From that same cabin dooryard, overgrown with its mixture of weeds, sunflowers, and hollyhocks, you may look out toward a rippling field of winter wheat, or a contrasting Salt Lake suburb-in-the-making, or even aloft to a television transmitter perched high above abandoned diggings.

The sightseer even faintly versed in geology can readily find the bench marks of prehistoric Lake Bonneville etched upon the Oquirrh slopes. Other students interested in more recent history can as easily read, in mountainsides denuded of timber, blackened by smelter gas, and littered with mine tailings, the record of a people who heedlessly squandered a visible heritage while seeking another underground.

Nowadays, in a half-day round trip from Salt Lake's downtown hotels and motels, tourists can drive or journey by bus to Bingham Canyon, peer into one of the largest and most spectacular gashes man has yet carved into the earth, and learn that these shining mountains continue to give forth profitable quantities of copper, gold, and molybdenum. Visitors with a bit more leisure can swing another twenty miles south and west, following the route of the Pony Express and Overland Stage past vanished Camp Floyd and crumbling Stagecoach Inn to old Mercur. Here, in a virtually vanished town which had its beginnings in 1869, the sightseer can absorb the story of boom-and-bust. In the Oquirrh as elsewhere in the West, few hard-rock mining camps could outlive the era.

Nearby, at Ophir, a few tottering frame buildings in a shadowy, quiet, rock-rimmed canyon recall the days when Marcus Daly and Montana's Senator W. A. Clark struck it rich in the Oquirrh, went on to bigger things at Butte, and left a town to die. In contrast, virtually across the road, storage facilities of the Deseret Chemical Depot and Tooele Ordnance Depot dot the valley country north and west of the Oquirrh's mineralized ridges. They recall the period of World War II when thousands of outlanders in khaki came here, worked and drilled, and journeyed to bigger things in Germany and the distant Pacific.

Circling north along State Highway 36, forming the westerly side of a seventy-five mile long asphalt loop around the Oquirrhs, visitors glimpse the brush-covered Onaqui and Stansbury peaks to the west, looking much as they did when Pony Express riders spurred between them toward Johnson Pass. Today's pavement runs through St. John and Stockton, range-country towns bereft of part of their utility and color by the advent of the modern highway via which cowpokes and sheepmen of this rubber-tired era move livestock to the winter range or to market.

North again to Tooele and its smelters. Only one remains operative, but the citizens of this lively community find work at mills and refineries around the Oquirrh ridge at Magna, Arthur, and Garfield, and many commute to jobs in Salt Lake City. Others farm nearby fields and orchards — and the whole town is co-operating in alerting tourists to the potentialities of the area. Tooele County has carved out a scenic road up Middle Canyon to the 9,000 foot level of the Oquirrhs. From this dug-way visitors can peer across the Great Salt Desert toward Pilot Peak, mentally tracing the route of the foundering Donner Party.

From the Middle Canyon Road, flanked by forests of oak brush, juniper, and pines, where a Utah State Park is in the planning stages, there is a striking view to the north across the Great Salt Lake and on to Idaho. To the east, the Salt Lake Valley, filled nearly to its fringes by the city and its suburbs, is sheltered by the snow-sprinkled Wasatch peaks. Just over the divide and on down the eastern drainage of the Oquirrhs, Kennecott's mammoth open-pit copper mine resembles nothing so much as a child's effort to carve a hole in a shore line sand dune.

But — drive back down the Middle Canyon road to Tooele, continue north and east another twenty miles past the parade of smelters, mills, and refineries in the smoke-bleached borderland between the Oquirrhs and the green-blue waters of the Great Salt Lake. True, one can circumnavigate the Oquirrhs on well-paved roads in less than half-a-day's easy driving. However, in such a circuit, you will not have probed Bingham and its mine, or spent time puttering around somnolent Ophir or Mercur, you will not have tramped around Camp Floyd, viewed the century old Overland Stage and Pony Express station at Fairfield, or climbed the ridge via Middle Canyon. Allow yourself a day or two for such sightseeing.

Up Bingham Canyon, the "mountain that has become a hole in the ground" is one of the world's most amazing earth-moving operations — and one of the easiest to reach. Most mines and mining camps are uncomfortable spots for loungers. At Bingham, the sidewalk superintendent can



*Robert C. Gemmell, believed in the practicability of large-scale open pit production plus the use of flotation methods.*



*Daniel C. Jackling, major instigator behind the successful exploitation of the low-grade copper ores from Utah's mines.*

take his ease while absorbing a lasting lesson in mining methodology, mining economics, and geology.

Just above the town of Bingham, the Kennecott Copper Company has, by diligent use of dynamite, gigantic power shovels, and one of the nation's strangest rail systems, sliced the top from an 8,000 foot high Oquirrh peak, dug down into its innards, and strewn the remains over miles of mountain landscape.

The resultant hole is deep enough to contain two *Queen Mary's* set on end, and wide enough, from rim to rim, to swallow up the lower portion of Manhattan Island, with room for a sizeable piece of downtown San Francisco as well. This hole in the Oquirrh is the world's largest open-pit copper mine. From it comes one-third of the nation's annual total of copper production. Since Daniel C. Jackling first persuaded his backers that large-scale surface mining was feasible here despite the district's low-grade ore, more than a billion tons of earth have been removed.

Jackling, a mover of men as well as of earth and ore, turned Bingham's mine into an operation of unprecedented scope in 1907. Since 1954 his statue has graced the rotunda of Utah's state capitol in Salt Lake City; he died in 1956 in San Francisco, but his real monument is the Bingham open pit.

Most mines necessarily ban tourists, but this most spectacular of all western diggings welcomes them, and is readily reached by roads linking



the Oquirrh to Salt Lake City, just nineteen miles distant. Sightseeing buses carry trippers from the city's hotels, motels, and Temple grounds—making the trip easier for flat-country natives who might hesitate about the up-canyon drive.

Indeed, tourists upset by high places, man-made earthquakes, and loud explosions might be advised to give Bingham a wide berth. The public observation platform thoughtfully provided by Kennecott (complete with a taped lecture on the mine, benches, a shelter, and running water) is some 6,500 feet above sea level. Earth-shaking, ear-splitting blasts which tumble tons of ore-bearing rock to the working levels are fired each afternoon, with the general effect approximating that of a battlefield.

The highway trip to the pit is as full of interest as the mine itself. The road, ascending some 2,000 feet as it climbs toward the Oquirrh, offers sweeping views across the valley toward the Wasatch. Suddenly, after passing through the model mining community of Copperton, sightseers find themselves winding through a narrowing canyon where electric locomotives, seemingly the size of toys, crawl on a series of slate-gray and rust-colored shelves. Next, the traveler reaches Bingham, a rugged-looking village reminiscent of the West usually seen only in movies.

It is a town once notorious for gunplay and stabbings, a metropolis scourged by fire and landslides. Unions, health officers, a bustling Chamber of Commerce, and changing times have cleaned things up considerably, but Bingham can still prove a bit shocking to effete Easterners.

Sightseers are further startled to find the town apparently dead-ending against an impassable wall of sheer rock, high as a fifty story building. A sharp left turn reveals the entry to a one lane vehicular tunnel, 6,988 feet long, through which tourists once traveled to view the mine. Now used solely by employees and Bingham residents, the tunnel lost much of its utility when mine workings hacked into the company-built community of Copperfield with its boardinghouses, shops, school, and dwellings. The present-day highway to Kennecott's mine-rim "observatory" is reached by a sharp right turn up Carr Fork, past a group of structures which includes a recreation hall and the bottom landing of a "funicular" car used by Kennecott workers to reach the local copper company offices located on the side of the mountain.

After negotiating the Carr Fork access road, visitors reach a broad parking area near the observation shed overlooking the diggings. From this spot, Kennecott's workings resemble an overgrown amphitheater. A series of giant steps descends some 1,000 feet below the spectator, while equally spectacular terraces rise another 1,000 feet overhead. Standard

gauge electric locomotives creep along precarious switchbacks on the terrace rims, hauling long strings of ore gondolas. The pit is so vast the locomotives, along with power shovels fully three stories high, are hard to keep in sight on the far edge of the mine rim.

Warning flags and shrill whistles signal each series of blasts, after which selected dust-gray rock and ore slide down a level, spectators are rocked by the concussion, and the crack-boom of the blasting reaches waiting eardrums. Clocking the elapsed time between sighting smoke puffs and the sound of each salvo is one favorite sport with tourists. Many of them can be seen dancing madly around the platform attempting to aim cameras at each blast. And, on windless days, the sight of hugh smokers puffed hundreds of feet out from the canyon rim by the blasting powder is hard to believe. Equally hard to believe is the fact that mining men once ridiculed Colonel Enos A. Wall, who bought much of the land hereabouts back in 1896 for a few thousand dollars. The area had produced gold in quantity for claims owned by Samuel Newhouse and Thomas Weir, but experts felt Wall's notion of shipping a sufficiency of copper from Bingham to make a profit was extremely fanciful and termed his acreage "just rocks."

Newhouse and Weir had found their gold extraction hampered by an over-supply of copper sulphide in their ore. Even when explorations showed a vein of 18 per cent copper and Standard Oil of New York bought a principal interest in the Highland Boy mine, initial turn-of-century efforts to profitably mine, mill, and smelt the copper proved futile.

Wall and other mining experts failed to solve the problem until Jackling, with Robert C. Gemmell, issued a joint report setting forth the belief that large-scale open pit production of the low-grade ores, plus flotation methods, could make for large profits. After a series of option exchanges, stock deals and mergers, Utah Copper Company, organized in 1903, became a \$100,000,000 concern in 1910, and then a major segment of the Kennecott empire in 1948. Since 1907 some 300,000,000 tons of ore have been mined — averaging about 1 per cent copper, or just twenty pounds to the ton!

A strike by the Western Federation of Miners closed Bingham tight in 1912, a fire in 1932 wiped out much of the town — including the stills of local bootleggers. The highway, plus a dozen houses, was thoroughly buried in a 1930 cloudburst and landslide — but Bingham carried on. Steam locomotives vanished from its canyons, electric lights arrived, miners began living in comfortable valley homes and commuting to work. Through good times and bad, through two full-scale wars and a police

action, the whistles blew, the blasts roared, shovels chewed into ore-bearing rock and waste, and trains trundled downgrade to mills and refineries.

Drive around to Arthur and Magna, to Garfield, perched between the Oquirrh and the lake. The mill structures, the smelter stacks, the electrolytic refinery — these are perhaps unlovely, although they might interest such a painter as Sheeler, or some present-day El Greco seeking to view a very different Toledo. The buildings are utilitarian, the mountains behind them smoke-seared and barren. Yet, in typical prewar 1938 fully 212,098,500 pounds of copper funneled to the world from this section of the Oquirrh Range. In war years that production very nearly doubled—which is one reason we today are able to enjoy a ramble 'round these copper-bearing peaks.

What of Mercur and Ophir? Their output was on a smaller scale, but sizeable enough for an era in which a man could remain solvent through his declining years with a stake of ten or twelve thousand dollars if he stayed away from “gambling hells” and kept reasonably sober.

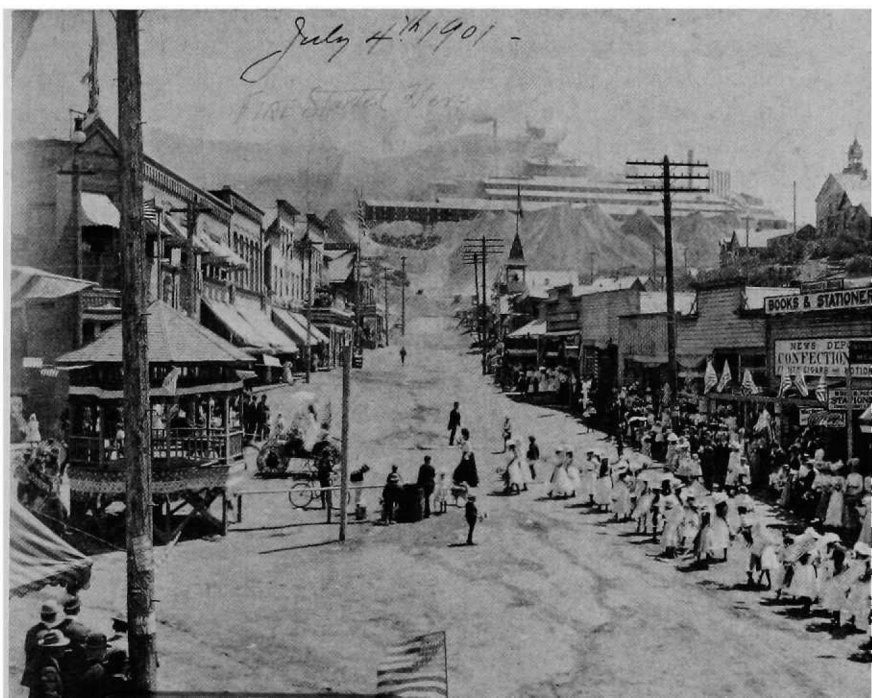
Both Ophir and Mercur had their beginnings at Fairfield, in Cedar Valley, just south of the Oquirrh on the State Highway 73 portion of the loop around the “shining mountains.” Shaded by giant cottonwoods, the few remaining homes of Fairfield are reminders of a quiet time that followed the much debated “Utah War.” The sole building left in its nearly original state dating back to that rowdy period is the two-story frame and adobe Carson Inn, the Overland Stage and Pony Express station given to Utah’s State Park Commission by the Carson family in 1958. Sadly in need of restoration and repair, the building’s major unit is a century old, having been constructed some three years after the village was established in 1855.

Fairfield flourished mightily in 1858 and 1859 with the arrival of troops led by Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston. Just a year previous, the United States government had declared “a state of substantial rebellion” existed in Utah and twenty-five hundred troops set up their encampment across the road from the Carson homestead to police the troubled territory. Teamsters, gamblers, tradesmen, saloon keepers, and ladies of extremely slight repute flocked to the no longer somnolent Cedar Valley, and by 1860 the population was estimated at seven thousand. When civil war threatened “back east,” Johnston marched off to gain considerable fame as a general with the southern forces. A camp cook, William Quantrill, headed east to lead an infamous unit of guerilla raiders on the Kansas border. But the foodstuffs and clothing, hardware, and saddles and gear remaining when the army moved out provided a boon for Mormon



*An early photograph of General Johnston's camp in 1858 at Camp Floyd in Cedar Valley. All that remains today is a marker and a cemetery.*

*Part of the Fourth of July Parade in Mercur in 1901. Once a flourishing mining town, it survived a fire in 1896 but was later destroyed by fire in June, 1902. In Mercur's heyday \$20,000,000 in ore was produced there.*



merchants and Gentile bankers. Such institutions as the present-day Zions Cooperative Mercantile Institution and the Walker Bank are reputed to owe part of their success to initial dealings in "army goods."

All that remains of Camp Floyd today is a simple stone and bronze marker, and a cemetery. The latter presents something of a mystery. Utah State Park officials are currently seeking clues in Washington archives to the identity of the soldiers buried within its drooping fence.

Johnston's troops, when withdrawn, were quickly followed by three hundred federal volunteers recruited in California and Nevada to guard the Utah Territory against rumored withdrawal from the Union. Commanded by Colonel Patrick Edward Connor, these volunteers helped guard the mail riders and stages clattering across the countryside between the Oquirrh and Nevada. More important — they went prospecting in every available canyon, and seemingly located some sort of underground treasure in the form of veins, reefs, lodes, and nuggets in virtually every declivity from Park City to Ophir.

Actually, the presence of ore in the Oquirrh had been pretty much common knowledge among Mormon settlers, since local Indians had long been making crude gold and silver ornaments, plus very useful lead bullets, with ore brought from back-country canyons. Connor's troops, guarding Rush Valley, located what became the St. Louis lode. And one thoughtful bluecoat, his name now lost to history, apparently gave thought to Job 22:24 and the words "lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks." Ophir the canyon became, Ophir it remains, after the passing of a town which numbered its residents in the thousands back in 1870. Today a five mile stretch of good, hard-surfaced road leads to the remnants of the town in a shaded Oquirrh "hollow." A quaint firehouse with a tall, slabsided wooden bell tower, a few frame homes, a small-town store, a school which was shuttered early in 1959 — these are the survivors of old Ophir, these and a crazily tip-tumbled wooden passenger car which once rolled sleek and proud on the now vanished railroad.

Here such mines as the Pocatello, Velocipede, and Miner's Delight sent heavy tonnages of ore to Utah's first sizeable smelter at Stockton as early as 1864. Here the Kearsage produced a million dollars from a single stope. In 1904 the now forgotten railroad was used to transport a well-guarded silver nugget, one of the largest ever mined in the United States, to the World's Fair at St. Louis. The Ophir field was kind to many miners including Marcus Daly. Fired from Alta over in the Wasatch, he staked

the Zella Mine at Ophir, struck it rich, used some of the \$30,000 thus earned to buy a hole-in-the-ground at Butte, Montana, he named Anaconda!

Ophir mines produced \$30,000,000 in ore in fifty years, including \$8,000,000 in silver, \$6,000,000 in copper, \$13,000,000 in lead, \$2,500,000 in zinc, and a few hundred thousand dollars in gold. Production slumped in the wake of the first World War, rose to the \$500,000 per annum level just before World War II, then died. Today's Ophir is a pleasant enough spot, providing an easily visited midpoint on a trip around the Oquirrhs.

Mercur, a dozen miles up canyon from Highway 73 over a far bumpier road, also got its start when Colonel Connor's prospecting troopers found silver ore in the canyon-pierced Oquirrh foothills. One early miner, Mack Gibson, profited to the tune of \$80,000 with his Carrie Steele lode. In a dozen years beginning in 1868 the canyon sheltered a typically thriving western boom-and-bust mining camp, complete with gambling houses, saloons, stagecoach office, and grandiose hotel. Called Lewiston, the town sagged in 1880 when ore yields declined and seemed about to vanish. Onto the scene came one Arie Pinedo, fresh from Bavaria. This worthy staked the Mercur claim in 1882 and sought valiantly to find some means of extracting gold from the quicksilver or cinnabar with which the yellow stuff was commingled.

When this effort proved futile, Pinedo left the Oquirrhs, and headed for Europe — via South America. Nine years later one Joseph Smith, a profit-seeking exponent of the new science of metallurgy, currycombed Pinedo's claim, expressed belief the gold values could be extracted, and sent a partner, L. S. Manning, to track down the vanished prospector.

It took a year and \$30,000 to find Pinedo and buy his claims. In 1893 mining engineers, partly upon the insistence of Smith, developed the cyanide process, putting Mercur's mines into production on a large scale. Population climbed to 6,000 by 1896, a railroad was laid up the canyon and — on January 6, 1896 Mercur burned down. Rebuilt, incorporated, and blessed at long last with a water supply, Mercur flourished again, until another fire in June of 1902 virtually ended its existence as a major community. The mines lasted another ten years, however, having produced an estimated \$20,000,000 in their heyday.

Today's sightseeing tourist should conclude a junket in and around the shining mountains with a trip up Middle Canyon. Someday, the road up the canyon from the Tooele area will surely be linked with a road up the eastern slope; someday the range may be utilized for winter sports, and the denuded foothills may be replanted. Meantime, the Oquirrhs, so rich in history and scenery alike, are well worth a trip of rediscovery.






*A breathtaking sight in almost every season are the sunsets on the Great Salt Lake. The flame-swept western skyline can be enjoyed for a prolonged length of time because the period of twilight is long in the Valley.*

## THE GREAT SALT LAKE

*By David E. Miller\**



There has been an air of mystery and strange fascination about the Great Salt Lake from the time of its discovery and early exploration down to the present. In September, 1843, John C. Frémont approached it with wonder and anticipation. By that time the lake had already gained fame and mystery, although the first white man had beheld its glassy surface less than two decades earlier. Frémont expressed the hope that his party might escape the "whirlpool and other mysterious dangers . . . which Indian and hunters' stories attributed to this unexplored lake." He dreamed of islands covered with lush vegetation and sparkling mountain streams. Perhaps he would find a super native tribe on the lake islands! Obviously, Frémont knew very little about the lake—but he had heard a good deal and imagined a great deal more and had built up enough interest to justify the launching of an exploration to one of its islands.

Today there are countless "Frémonts" who approach the lake with wonderment and awe. In almost any group of people, anywhere in the United States, mere mention of the Great Salt Lake invariably leads to an interesting conversation—provided anyone present knows enough about the lake to answer questions. Where does the salt come from? How much is there in the lake? Do fish live in the lake? Is there any

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plant life in its brine? Does it ever freeze? What could one expect to find on its islands? Do people live there? Is the lake drying up? Is it true that a person cannot sink in it? These are a few of the most common questions, many of which are answered on the following pages.

### LAKE LEGENDS

Things about which people know very little often hold a peculiar enchantment. And the very lack of understanding and information about an object occasionally opens the door for numerous wild stories, speculations, and myths which seem completely ridiculous as soon as correct information is brought to light. So it has been with the Great Salt Lake. Faulty or insufficient information has led to many rumors and myths concerning it.

One of the most baffling problems to early lake visitors was this: How could the lake maintain its level year after year with no visible outlet and with numerous streams constantly pouring into it? Certainly it must be connected to the ocean by a subterranean river. The salty nature of the water even suggested such a connection to some who failed to take into consideration the fact that the lake is more than three-quarters of a mile higher than the Pacific. Logic suggested that if there were a subterranean outlet, there must also be a huge whirlpool somewhere on the lake surface, for there would be a great rushing of water into it. We have noted that Frémont's men shared this superstition when they approached the lake in 1843. Many years later it was to be revived by men who should have known better. In 1870 boatmen from Corinne, making regular runs on the lake, reported a *hole* off Frémont Island into which the lake was rushing. "A schooner last Tuesday was almost drawn into it." Fears were expressed for the safety of the steamer, *Kate Connor*, then en route between Corinne and Lake Point. Although most newspaper men considered the report a hoax, hopes were expressed by some that the whirlpool would prove sufficiently large to keep the lake at its current level, for it was showing a rapid rise at the time. A few years ago I had occasion to examine the area where the whirlpool was reputed to have been, and found not more than six inches of water there.

Every lake of any character must have its monster, and Great Salt Lake qualifies in this respect. A few years after the whirlpool report, eyewitnesses testified to the existence of a monster in the northwest arm of the lake. According to the report a group of men were camped on the shore near the north end of the lake on the evening of July 8, 1877, when suddenly they saw "a huge mass of hide and fin rapidly approaching and

when within a few yards of the shore it raised its enormous head and uttered a terrible bellow." The men fled in terror. The next morning tracks and overturned rocks showed where the monster had thrashed around on shore and destroyed camp equipment. What these men actually saw is still a mystery. Could it have been a buffalo?

Still another "eyewitness" account tells of a school of whales in the lake. This is such a naïve story that it merits recounting in its original form. The account appears in an 1890 newspaper under the heading: "Whales in Great Salt Lake."

Intelligent newspaper readers have not forgotten the inauguration fifteen years ago by Mr. James Wickham . . . of the whale industry in the Great Salt Lake. As considerable time was required for the development of the experiment the subject has passed out of the public mind but it has by no means been forgotten by naturalists or capitalists interested in the whale fishery. The whale is the largest and probably the longest lived animal. They have been known to grow to 100 feet in length and live to the age of 400 years. It is a mammal, or, in other words suckles its young. The project of Mr. Wickham was greatly assisted by this fact, for the difficulty that would attend the obtaining of whale eggs in the deep seas is at once apparent. It was only necessary to obtain a pair of whales in order to begin the propagation of the animals under domestication. The southern or Australian whale was selected as the best suited to the Great Salt Lake. The greater part of two years were occupied off the coasts of Australia by a vessel sent especially for the purpose in continued efforts to capture the young whales without injury. The feat, however, was at last accomplished, and the beasts, each about thirty-five feet long were shipped to San Francisco in 1873 in tanks built expressly for them. Fifty tanks of sea water accompanied their overland shipment to insure plentiful supplies of the natural element.

Mr. Wickham came from London in person to superintend the "planting" of his leviathan pets. He selected a small bay near the mouth of Bear River connected with the main water by a shallow strait half a mile wide. Across this strait he built a wire fence, and inside the pen so formed he turned the whales loose. After a few minutes inactivity they disported themselves in a lively manner, spouting water as in mid ocean, but as if taking in by instinct or intention the cramped character of their new home, they suddenly made a bee line for deep water and shot

through the wire fence as if it had been made of threads. In twenty minutes they were out of sight. . . .

Though the enterprising owner was of course, disappointed and doubtful of the results he left an agent behind him to look after his floating property.

Six months later Mr. Wickham's representative came upon the whales fifty miles from the bay where they had broken away, and from that time to the present they have been observed at intervals, by him and the watermen who ply the lake, spouting and playing.

Within the last few days, however, Mr. Wickham cabled directions to make careful inspection and report the developments, and the agent followed the whales for five successive days and nights. Discovering that the original pair are now sixty feet in length, and followed about by a school of several hundred young, varying in length from three to fifteen feet. The scheme is a surprising and complete success, and Mr. Wickham has earned the thanks of mankind.

Catching whales in Great Salt Lake and following that business on the dangerous Greenland coast are two quite different things. The enormous value of the new industry can be better appreciated by remembering that a single whale produces twenty tons of pure oil.

Needless to say, this "whale of a tale" is a complete fabrication, but it serves as an excellent example of Great Salt Lake stories.

Early maps of western America which include the Great Salt Lake region bear witness to the general misunderstanding of it prior to 1850 — the year Howard Stansbury completed the first comprehensive lake survey. Several of these maps indicate a widespread belief in the existence of a lake in this region long before the first white men had visited its shores. First to penetrate into the Salt Lake drainage basin were members of the Domínguez-Escalante expedition of 1776 who came down Spanish Fork Canyon to the east side of Utah Lake where they arrived in September. From the Indians the Spanish missionary party learned that Utah Lake is connected with Great Salt Lake, but they did not get the notion that the connecting link was a river more than thirty miles long — Jordan River. Instead they imagined the lake to the north to be an extension of the body of water on whose shores they were standing and named the whole mass Laguna de los Timpanagos (Lake Timpanogos) in honor of the local Indians. Miera, cartographer of the expedition, included this

lake as a major feature of his "Bearded Indian" map. Miera's was not the earliest map to show what eventually became known as the Great Salt Lake, but it evidently had more influence on later map makers and explorers than any of the earlier maps.

Possibly of more importance than the lake itself are the rivers that are shown feeding and draining it. Miera's map shows a large river, the Tizon, running straight west from the lake and supposedly flowing into the Pacific, although the map does not extend that far to the west. Subsequent maps showed two large streams with varying names (Mongos, Timpanogos, Buenaventura) draining the lake into the ocean, one of them discharging its water into San Francisco Bay.

In 1826 James Clyman and three companions circumnavigated the lake in bullboats and reported very definitely that there was no drainage from it. Three years later Joseph Redford Walker's expedition supplied additional proof of this as well as the material for Captain B. L. E. Bonnevill's map of 1837 which properly placed the lake inside the Great Basin, with interior drainage only. But the notion of a western outlet persisted for another decade. So prevalent was the belief that John Bidwell, who helped guide the first wagons across Utah via the northern end of the lake in 1841, reported that:

Some of the maps consulted, supposed of course to be correct, showed the lake in the vicinity of where Salt Lake now is; it was represented as a long lake, three or four hundred miles in extent, narrow with two outlets, both running into the Pacific Ocean, either apparently larger than the Mississippi river. An intelligent man . . . Elan Brown, who had recently lived in California . . . possessed a map that showed these rivers to be large, and he advised me to take tools along to make canoes, so that if we found the country so rough that we could not get along with our wagons, we could descend one of these rivers to the Pacific.

The Bartleson-Bidwell party did abandon their wagons at the Johnson Springs in Nevada—a present source of water supply for Wendover City, and finished the trip to California with pack animals, not canoes.

John C. Frémont explored the east slopes of the Sierra Nevada in search of one of these mythical rivers (the Buenaventura) in 1844 and finally became convinced that no such stream existed. It is indeed difficult to replace faulty information with facts. Myths die hard.



## DISCOVERY AND EARLY EXPLORATION

Having briefly examined some of the legendary and mythical stories about Great Salt Lake, let us now turn to some truths about that famous body of water. For in this case truth is even more fascinating than fiction.

As far as we know, James Bridger was the first white man to see Great Salt Lake, although Etienne Provost may very well have preceded him to its shores. The events associated with Bridger's discovery can be briefly told. During the summer of 1824 a brigade of westward bound Rocky Mountain trappers crossed South Pass and eventually followed Bear River downstream into Cache Valley where they arrived late in the fall. Winter camp was established at the present site of Franklin, Idaho. During their travels along Bear River, speculation arose among the trappers regarding the course of the stream and especially its destination. A wager was made among members of the party, and Bridger, the youngest member of the crowd, was chosen to sail downstream in a bullboat to learn the answers. Whether this voyage of exploration was conducted before the end of the year, 1824, or later we do not know. At any rate, Bridger sailed down the stream and in due time reached Bear River Bay where, according to one account, he scooped a handfull of lake brine into his mouth, then spat it out with an oath: "Hell, we are on the shores of the Pacific."

The next decade saw the north, east, and south shores of the lake quite thoroughly explored by trappers who hoped to find numerous tributary streams teeming with beaver.

Frémont was first attracted to the lake in September, 1843, at which time he, Kit Carson, Charles Preuss, Baptiste Bernier, and Basil Lajeunesse paddled an eighteen-foot "India rubber" boat from the mouth of Weber River to Frémont Island — called Disappointment Island by Frémont because of barren conditions found there. This is the earliest recorded visit of any white man to any of the lake islands, although Clyman and his companions probably visited some of them in 1826. When Frémont's party was about midway between the shore and the island a breeze came up, and the smooth lake surface was soon transformed into a mass of heaving swells. To make matters worse, the boat sprang a leak and two of the seams separated, allowing air to escape from the air pockets which kept the craft afloat. It was a tense moment for the occupants to have been thrown into the concentrated lake brine under the circumstances might have resulted in tragedy. However, by working the bellows to capacity, enough air was kept in the leaky cylinders to keep the boat above water, and the party reached the island without loss.

Frémont's first lake visit is important for several reasons. He was the first to determine the elevation of the lake, 4200 feet above sea level; he made the first analysis of the water, finding that five gallons produced fourteen pints of salt; from the peak of Frémont Island he conducted a survey of the lake with a spyglass and drew a fairly accurate map of it. After returning to the mainland, Frémont discovered that he had left the brass cover of his spyglass on the island peak. This has been the object of search by almost every island visitor since that time. However, the cover was found by Jacob Miller during the 1860's when the Miller brothers were using the island as a cattle and sheep ranch.

Also dating back to Frémont's first island visit is the famous Carson Cross, carved on the side of a peculiar rock formation near the island's crest by Kit Carson and his fellows while Frémont was busy completing his spyglass survey. The cross is a true crucifix slightly more than seven inches long. It has been of considerable interest to most island visitors.

In 1845, while camped on City Creek in Salt Lake Valley, Frémont rode horseback to Antelope Island to hunt antelope — hence its name. He then traveled westward to pioneer the route which was soon to become famous as Hastings Cutoff across the Great Salt Lake Desert.

Five years after Frémont's second lake visit, Howard Stansbury completed the first thorough lake survey in 1850. Stansbury examined all the islands, made extensive soundings, charted the shore line, produced an accurate map and a detailed report regarding various aspects of Great Salt Lake.

### LAKE BONNEVILLE'S REMNANT

The Great Salt Lake is "great" in the sense that it is the largest lake in the United States west of the Mississippi River and the largest salt lake in North America. However, it is only a small remnant of its predecessor, Lake Bonneville, which covered an area ten times as large as the present lake some 50,000 to 100,000 years ago. At its highest level Lake Bonneville covered 19,750 square miles, was 346 miles long and 145 miles wide, and reached a depth of 1,050 feet. It was twice as large as Lake Erie and almost as large as Lake Michigan. Nearly a half million people now live in the area once washed by Bonneville waters. Great Salt Lake is 70 miles long, 50 miles wide, and 34 feet deep. Its area is approximately 1,500 square miles.

Ironical as it may seem, Lake Bonneville was named in honor of a man who never came within fifty miles of the Great Salt Lake. It was so named by G. Karl Gilbert, who conducted the most complete survey of

the ancient shore lines during the 1870's. Gilbert was a better geologist than historian and was evidently misled into believing that Bonneville had conducted a rather complete exploration of Great Salt Lake and felt that he was thus entitled to have the ancient lake named in his honor.

The shore lines of ancient Lake Bonneville are so striking that even the most casual observer cannot help seeing them. Rather than obscure markers on the hills, these lines form distinct terraces on the mountain slopes surrounding the present lake. Howard Stansbury was the first to recognize them as shore lines of an ancient body of water when on October 25, 1849, he counted thirteen distinct benches on Terrace Mountain northwest of Great Salt Lake. Since that time more than fifty terraces have been counted at various places in the Great Salt Lake Basin. They represent lake levels maintained long enough to allow wind and wave action to form a definite shore line. Highest of the lines is the Bonneville Terrace (approximately 1000 feet above the present lake level) which may be clearly seen along the west slopes of the Wasatch Mountains and in numerous other places; it is especially prominent in the south end of Salt Lake County, opposite Utah State Penitentiary.

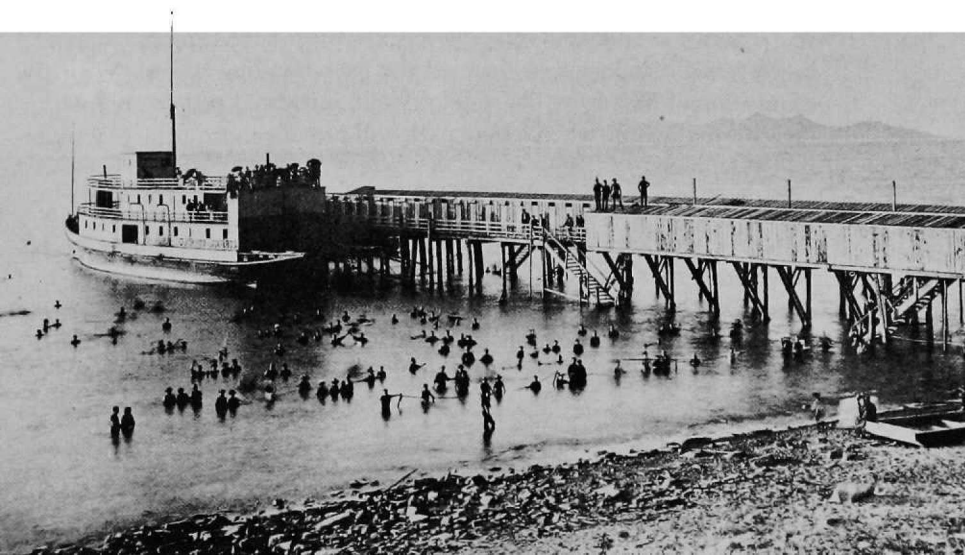
Lake Bonneville finally ran over the rim of the Great Basin at Red Rock Pass northwest of Preston, Idaho, drained off into Portneuf River and into the Pacific by way of the Snake and Columbia rivers. Rushing waters of the "Bonneville" river rapidly cut deeper and deeper until the downward cutting was halted by bedrock, 330 feet below the high water mark. At this elevation the Provo Terrace was formed and the lake seems to have maintained this level for an extensive period of time.

From the Provo level the lake has decreased to its present size as a result of evaporation—not enough water has run into it to replace the amount evaporated. There is considerable evidence to show that there were several periods of rise and fall during the past several thousand years; at times the lake seems to have dried up completely, only to be revived again by a change in climate. One result of this evaporation process was the concentration of salt in the remnants of the lake. All the fresh-water streams which feed Great Salt Lake contain minute quantities of salt which is leached from the rocks and soil over which the water passes. As long as the lake had an outlet, the minerals contained in it flowed out with the water and the lake remained fresh. However, as the waters have evaporated since the lake stood at the Provo level, the salt has become more and more concentrated, for it does not evaporate with the water. After thousands of years of this process the present lake water is approximately 25 per cent salt — containing an estimated 6,000,000,000 tons.



*Resplendent old Garfield Beach resort was built early in 1887. A magnificent pavilion was built over the water 400 feet from shore, and the whole was surmounted by an observation tower overlooking the lake on all sides.*

*Among the many boats cruising the lake at various times was the City of Corinne, later named the General Garfield in honor of the president. The vessel was destroyed when a fire swept the Garfield landing pier in 1904.*



Of course, no fish can live in the concentrated brine, but two dozen other forms of life are found in it. Most noticeable is a tiny brine shrimp. This is a pinkish-orange colored creature with large black eyes and five pairs of flimsy, bristle-like legs. It sometimes reaches as much as half an inch in length, although most specimens are smaller. At times these creatures are so numerous that the water assumes a pinkish tint. In recent years these animals have been harvested for use as tropical fish food. Brine shrimp feed on a type of green algae which also flourishes in the lake. A type of seaweed-like plant is also found in the deeper water.

Needless to say, the concentrated brine of the lake does not freeze, even in the coldest winter weather. However, huge sheets of ice several inches thick and more than a mile in area are often found floating about in the lake. Such ice floes have done some damage to boats and rather extensive damage to the Lucin Cutoff railroad trestle where, driven by wind and waves, the ice has literally cut through some of the pilings, requiring their replacement. This ice is formed during extremely cold, calm weather when fresh water flowing into the lake fails to mix with the heavier brine and freezes on top of it. In 1944 such a sheet formed at the mouth of Weber River and extended all the way to Frémont Island thus providing easy access for coyotes to raid the sheep pastured there. At times these ice sheets are driven by the wind, broken up and deposited in huge piles which float about the lake somewhat like icebergs.

The saline content of the water has contributed considerably to the attractiveness of the lake as a bathing resort. During the past century several popular bathing beaches have made their appearance and enjoyed periods of prosperity and fame. Among these are Lake Side, Lake Point, Syracuse, Garfield, Black Rock, Sunset Beach, and Saltair. These resorts, where bathers enjoyed floating around on the surface of water in which they cannot sink, attracted thousands of people every summer. In recent years, with the lake at a very low level, owners have been hard pressed to keep facilities in operation near the ever receding water. With the acquisition of Saltair by the state of Utah, interested people are looking forward to the time when a state park will provide more attractive swimming facilities.

### BOATING

Since the first white men visited Great Salt Lake many boats of various types and sizes have been launched on its waters. The earliest of these were the bullboats used by James Bridger on his voyage of discovery and James Clyman who first circumnavigated the lake in 1825. Frémont's eighteen-foot India rubber boat supplied satisfactory transportation for

his exploring party in 1843. The first Mormon boat was the *Mud Hen* used in 1848 for a visit to some of the islands. Howard Stansbury conducted his extensive 1850 lake survey in the *Salicornia*. Brigham Young launched the *Timely Gull* in 1864. Many other sailboats were used from time to time in the transporting of livestock to and from the lake islands.

Several steamboats have also plied Great Salt Lake waters at one time or another. The earliest of these was the *Kate Connor* built by General P. A. Connor in the 1860's and was used to transport railroad ties and telegraph poles. This craft was later bought by Christopher Layton and used as a sheep and cattle boat. Other steamers eventually made their appearance, the largest of which was the *City of Corinne*, a seventy foot, three hundred ton, Mississippi River type stern wheeler with two stacks and three decks. This craft was launched at Corinne, May 24, 1871, and saw some use in the transportation of ore, livestock, and timbers before being converted into a luxury excursion boat. As such it cruised the lake for many years stopping at various lake resorts. Before his election to the presidency of the United States, General James A. Garfield cruised the lake in the *City of Corinne* and it was subsequently renamed the *General Garfield* in his honor. In 1904 a fire swept the Garfield Landing pier and resort and destroyed the vessel.

Although boating on the lake is great sport it is enjoyed by relatively few people today. There are several reasons for this. In the first place, the lake level has dropped so much that satisfactory launching sites are few and far between. The Salt Lake County Boat Harbor is the most satisfactory of these sites. This harbor provides adequate shelter and dock facilities for privately owned boats, but is not open for commercial use. Although some of the local beaches do maintain small boats for short lake trips, there are no commercial facilities for extensive lake cruises. With so many fresh-water lakes readily available, most boat owners are reluctant to subject their crafts to the briny waters of the lake where metal parts soon corrode, requiring constant maintenance. Nevertheless, with the development of proper facilities the lake could become a very popular yachting attraction.

## LAKE ISLANDS

Antelope Island is the only one of the lake's islands which is inhabited at the present time. It has been continuously used as a stock range since 1849, at which time the Mormon Church decided to pasture part of its tithing herd there. An adobe house built under church direction during the early 1850's is still used as headquarters for the Island Ranching





*Great Salt Lake does not boast islands of "paradise." The remains of the Wenner home, once a fine rock house on Frémont Island, are now desolate.*

*The lonely cairn marks the graves of Judge U. J. Wenner and his wife. The family lived on the island six years; the judge hoped to regain his health.*



Company and houses the foreman and his family. A small herd of American bison also ranges on the island. Primarily because of the fire hazard, the island owners discourage visitors.

Frémont Island has been the scene of some interesting episodes during the past century. For more than twenty years, beginning in 1859, it was occupied by the Miller brothers of Farmington, Utah, who used it as a sheep and cattle ranch. It was, in fact, known as Miller Island for three decades.

It was during the Miller occupation period that John Baptiste, the grave robber, was banished there. Baptiste had been hired to dig graves in the Salt Lake City cemetery. But for some reason he seemed unable to leave the dead buried. Baptiste developed the habit of going out at night, digging into new graves and stealing clothing and jewelry from the corpses. Only after some three hundred graves had been desecrated was suspicion directed toward the culprit, who confessed all when a search of his house produced undeniable evidence. As punishment, Baptiste was sentenced to banishment on Frémont Island. Henry W. Miller took the prisoner to the island and left him to his fate. Of course, there was no danger of starvation, for the Millers maintained a well-provisioned cabin. Three weeks later Dan Miller visited the island to inspect the springs and found that Baptiste had made his escape. The banished man had ripped several planks from the cabin, bound them into a raft with thongs of cowhide taken from a cow which he had slaughtered, and made his escape. Needless to say, Baptiste was never seen in Utah again.

During the 1880's Judge U. J. Wenner and his family moved to Frémont Island, built a fine rock house, and lived there until 1891. Judge Wenner had contracted tuberculosis and hoped that the fresh lake air might effect a cure. However, after six years of island happiness he died rather suddenly and was buried a short distance from the house he had built. Blanche Wenner who lived there as a little girl still owns the island, and when her mother died in 1942 Miss Wenner had the cremated remains buried beside her father's grave. The old Wenner home and graves bear mute witness to one of the most interesting and romantic epics in the history of the West. For the past several years the island has been leased by Charles Stoddard who uses it as a livestock range.

Great Salt Lake islands have always been famous as bird rookeries. Thousands of sea gulls and pelicans and a few cormorants nest there every year. Hat Island, commonly known as Bird Island, was formerly the chief nesting ground. But with the fall of the lake during the 1930's that island was connected with the mainland by sand bars, providing a route for coy-

otes and other predatory animals which havocked the nesting grounds. As a result the birds moved away and now nest on Egg, White Rock, and Gunnison islands.

### LUCIN CUTOFF

During the great westward migration of the past century Great Salt Lake was a barrier which had to be by-passed. Most wagon traffic followed a northern course, although some took Hastings Cutoff to the south. The builders of the transcontinental railroad chose to follow the northern shore line where construction was completed at Promontory on May 10, 1869. It soon became apparent, however, that the piece of road between Corinne and Lucin was the major bottleneck in the whole transcontinental line. The main obstacle was the Promontory Range where the grade was found to be as much as ninety feet to a mile, and there were enough curves to turn a train around eleven times.

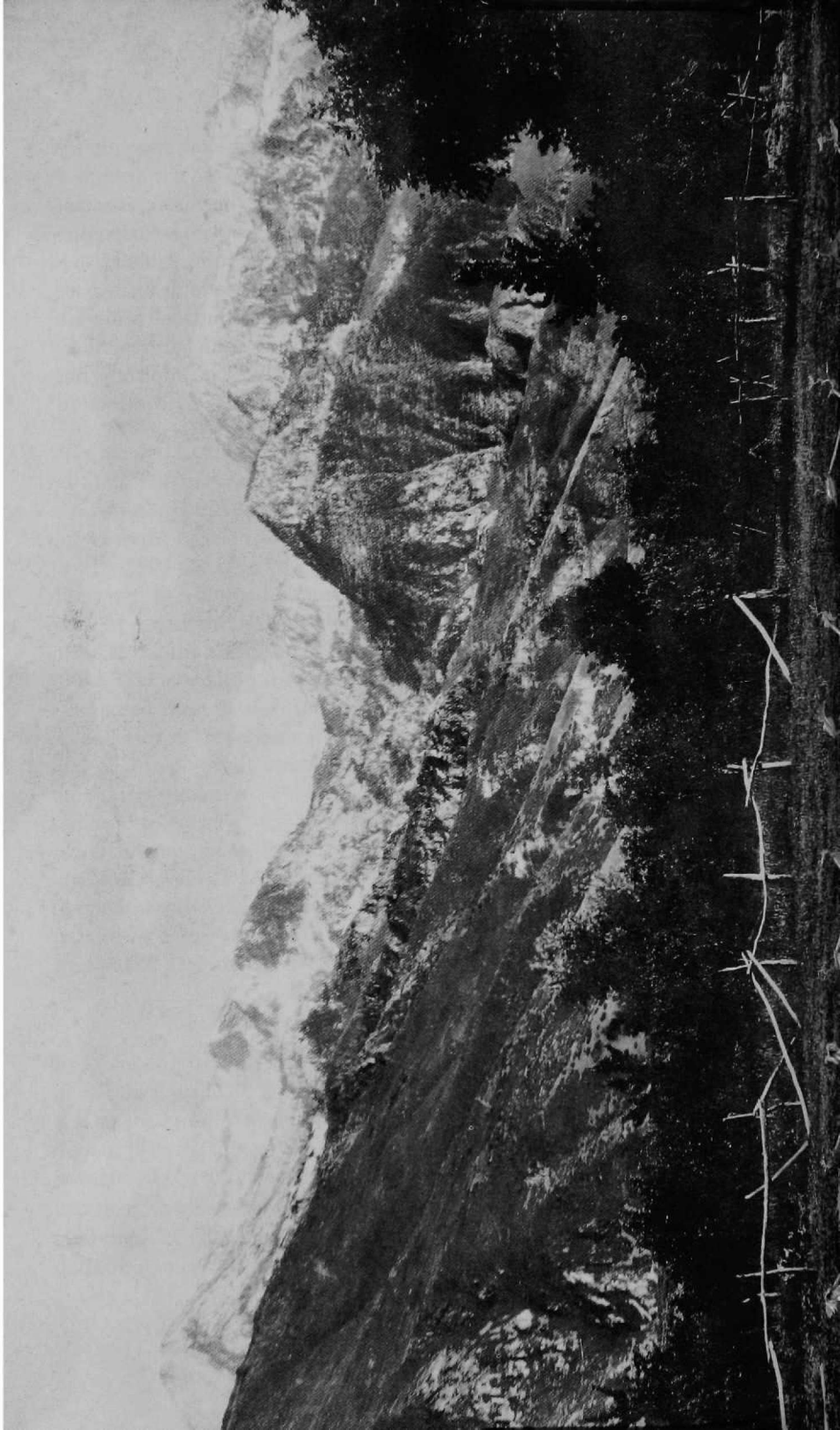
By 1900 the lake was lower than it had been at any time since its discovery, the railroad engineers decided to build a cutoff from Ogden straight across the lake to Lucin. The result was a remarkable feat of railroad building, the Lucin Cutoff, which was brought to completion in 1903. This new line shortened the distance by almost forty-five miles, eliminated most of the curves and steep grades, and cut off more than seven hours of travel time for each train. A major part of the cutoff consists of a twelve-mile trestle across the west arm of the lake. Although the pilings remain solid—being literally pickled in the brine—trains are required to travel slowly over it, and there is always the danger of fire. Need for improvement became more and more apparent, especially during World War II. As a result the United States government supported the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in a project to replace the trestle part of the cutoff with a solid rock-fill across the lake. When finished this \$50,000,000 project will effectively eliminate the century-old lake barrier.

### RISE AND FALL OF THE LAKE

Gauging stations for measuring rise and fall of the lake have been in operation since 1850. A study of the readings shows that the highest level was reached in 1873 when the surface of the water was eighteen feet higher than in 1940, the lowest recorded level. The rise and decline have followed in cycles of ten to fifteen years and, as might be expected, are very closely correlated with annual precipitation inside the lake drainage area. After 1940 the lake level climbed gradually for ten years, but has been slowly declining since that time. The present level is approximately four feet

lower than it was when the Mormon pioneers entered Utah more than a century ago.

Using the past record as a means of estimating the future, it seems likely that the lake will not dry up completely (as people have been predicting for more than half a century), at least in the foreseeable future. Likewise, there is little chance that it will rise high enough to menace farmland or other property, unless large quantities of "outside" water are diverted into the Salt Lake Basin from the Colorado drainage area. Radical climatic changes could, of course, change this outlook completely, but such changes are not expected. So the lake will very likely continue in the future as it has been in the past — Utah's Inland Dead Sea.



*The beautiful Wasatch Mountains. "When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple and print their outlines on the clear evening sky . . . which in the last rays of the setting sun will glow and light up like a crown of glory."*

## WANDERING IN THE WASATCH

*By Jack Goodman*

As lofty as the more widely renowned Sierra Nevada, as strikingly beautiful as the much visited Colorado Rockies, the canyon-cut Wasatch Mountains of Utah are finally being discovered by recreation seekers. "Rediscovered" might be a better word, since Brigham Young and his pioneer followers camped out at Brighton in 1857, holding a discreet jamboree to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Mormon entry into the nearby Great Salt Lake Valley.

Certainly the Wasatch Range was one of the first major western spurs of the parent Rockies visited by white man — Father Silvestre Vélez de Escalante and Father Francisco Antanasio Domínguez came this way in 1776. In September of that fateful year, moving up from Santa Fé in search of a passable route to Monterey, the padres swung round the southern end of the chill Uinta Mountains and crossed the Green River. Finding the drainage of the Duchesne and Strawberry, they caught a first glimpse of rugged, snow-tipped Timpanogos looming in the autumn haze, but seemingly missed the lush Heber Valley. Piercing Spanish Fork Canyon on a route now traversed by "California Zephyr" sightseers in the comfort of Vista Domes, these first travelers upon the Old Spanish Trail swung around what must have seemed a crazy jumble of towering peaks to find an entry to Utah Valley.



Visiting briefly in a lakeside encampment of "Yuta" Indians, the Spaniards then departed, having given the countryside both a name and a legend. To a degree, Escalante and his companions reacted much like latter-day tourists, if not Latter-day Saints. They viewed the Wasatch, mused a bit about its potential, then sought the highroad to California!

Trappers, including such venturesome men as General William H. Ashley, Jedediah S. Smith, and Peter Skene Ogden next penetrated the Wasatch, but visitors became fewer when the bottom dropped out of the beaver market in 1840 after two decades of high-country prosperity. The travails of the Donner party in 1846 need no recounting here, while the 1847 entry of the Mormon pioneers and the banner years of silver mining at Park City and Alta are the proper subjects of full-scale books and monographs.

The oddity worth some consideration is literary and æsthetic. For the fact is, the Wasatch Range, rich in history and scenery alike, has never quite caught the nation's eye.

What boy's geography book did not carry a photograph of Mount Hood or Mount Rainier to entice a soon-to-be adult to the Pacific Northwest? What prospective tourist has not had the phrase "mile high Denver" drummed into his consciousness so thoroughly that he somehow feels Colorado's capital must be just a mile or two from snowy peaks? In recent years the sharp-spined Tetons have become the epitome of mountain peaks to travel conscious America, not solely because of their contours but also because of their omnipresence in travel folders and motion pictures.

Meantime, Lone Peak continues to rear a snowy symmetrical cone aloft for those comparatively few tourists who choose to give eye to beauty by gazing south and east from almost any point in the Salt Lake Valley. The Wasatch Range continues to furnish a far more striking backdrop for Utah's capital than any setting the Denver Chamber of Commerce can command. As for the Tetons, or the ranges near Banff, Colorado's Maroon Bells, or Idaho's Sawtooth, those are mountains that have their moments, their undeniable qualities, their virtues — but what of the Wasatch?

It is an odd fact that hundreds of painters of varied skills have tried to catch the contrasting airiness and rock-ribbed solidity of this lengthy, lofty branch of the Rockies with indifferent success. Back at the turn of the century, John Hafen, an artist far less known than Thomas Moran, Winslow Homer, or George Inness, captured some of the charm and quiet of the peaks rising above his Springville homestead. But Utah's

Hafen had no eastern gallery outlets, and few cognoscente of either art or mountains have seen his oils or sketches.

The film expended by camera enthusiasts in the high country east of Utah's principal cities doubtless helps stockholders of Eastman and Ansco journey to the Alps and Aspen for mountain country vacations. Still, notable Wasatch country photographs by such notables of the lens world as Josef Muench and Ansel Adams are hard to come by. Jack White, Hal Rumel, and other fine Utah photographers presently catch the Wasatch scene, but seem unable to interest folks back at *Life*, *Holiday*, or *National Geographic* who might transmit the look of the Wasatch to view-hungry city dwellers.

Perhaps the most successful job of showing the nation the Wasatch was done by William Henry Jackson, official photographer for the Hayden Survey of the Territories. His 1870 wet-plates caught the flavor and accurately limned the backbone of Utah. Widely reproduced on stereopticon slides, they were viewed from countless parlor rocking chairs in countless flat-country homes.

How best to describe the Wasatch in words? We are told by old-timers that a series of lantern-slide lectures titled "Wonders of the Wasatch" was given locally in an era when Richard Halliburton had not yet given way to Lowell Thomas, Walt Disney, or television. We are further told the language of the lecturers was superlative indeed, rich in full-blown adjectives, and sufficient to make the unwary auditor wonder whether the Wasatch or the Himalayas were under discussion.

Failing to unearth the scripts which accompanied these early efforts at linking visual with verbal aides, it might be well to reprint, instead, the lines with which a truly notable American author began his pleasant tale concerning still another mountain range, one far less flamboyant than either the Wasatch or the Himalayas. For Washington Irving was a connoisseur of mountains as well as folklore. And certainly, "swelling up to a noble height and lording it over the surrounding country," the Wasatch Mountains dominate the everyday scene enjoyed by most Utahans in much the same manner the gentler Catskills encompassed the world of Hudson River townsfolk in the days of Rip Van Winkle.

Irving faithfully reported that "every change of season, every change of weather; indeed, every hour of the day produces some change in the magical hues and shapes of these mountains; and they are regarded by all the good wives, far and near, as perfect barometers." How like the Wasatch. True, no quaintly dressed Dutchmen roll thunderous bowling balls in the clefts and gorges of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The best we

can do for a legend hereabouts is to relate the tale of a lovelorn Indian maid now transformed into the crest of Mount Timpanogos. Certainly if Washington Irving, or even Mark Twain, had had some knowledge of Hansen's Cave (now a portion of Timpanogos Cave National Monument), we would have a more satisfying folktale to pass on to tourists. Our lack, as always, lies not with our physical setting—the problem would seem to be one of attracting high caliber, tale-spinning authors to the Wasatch.

Return to the Wasatch, or, as some would have it, the Catskills for just a moment more. Said Irving: "When the weather is fair and settled, they are clothed in blue and purple, and print their outlines on the clear evening sky. Sometimes, when the rest of the landscape is cloudless, they will gather a hood of gray vapors about their summits, which, in the last rays of the setting sun, will glow and light up like a crown of glory."

What resident of Ogden ever set down a better description of the lowlying sun tipping Ben Lomond? Has any Salt Laker done as well for the great expanse of peaks extending from Red Butte or Emigration Canyon down to Point of the Mountain? Can a Utah Valley citizen match Irving's phrases in praise of Nebo, Mount Provo, "Timp" or even Loafer Mountain? Obviously, it will take an outlander to "thump the tub" for the Wasatch, which is why the information which follows is directed to Utah's guests, or at least to the few noncomplacent natives these words will reach.

Physically, the Wasatch Mountains extend fully 150 miles from Collinston, near the Idaho border, on south to Nephi, beyond Utah Lake, where they merge into the Wasatch Plateau. The Wasatch fault fronting the western face of the range is responsible for its abrupt character—one of the few in all the West in which major peaks reaching 11,000 and 12,000 feet in altitude rise so nearly sheer from a 4,500 foot high valley. Fully 967,000 acres of this rough and mountainous country lie within the Wasatch National Forest. A few score acres are protected by the National Park Service at Timpanogos Cave, another few hundred thousand acres of the Wasatch Range fall within the boundaries of the Uinta National Forest.

While upwards of 2,000,000 people annually visit the Wasatch, there is a marked scarcity of summer resorts in the 150 mile long range, and thus fully 90 per cent of the visitors are merely eight-hour guests of the local rangers. Most recreation seekers drive to the picnic tables in the shadowy canyons nearest such cities as Ogden, Salt Lake, and Provo, but return home at sundown.

As a result, there is plenty of room to roam for visitors who will venture upcountry to aspen groves, evergreen forests, mountain meadows, and Alpine peaks which give the lie to Utah's reputation as a desert state. In addition to peaks and forests, the Wasatch region is dotted with beautiful lakes of which Solitude, Twin Lakes, and Lake Catherine are typical readily reached examples. To drive into and through the range, arteries which should be sought on standard petroleum company maps must first include the roads circling from Salt Lake to Park City to Heber and back to Provo, thereby ringing much of the Wasatch. There is a wonderfully scenic Alpine Loop traversing the spine of the region (more on this a bit later). There is a fine road up Little Cottonwood Canyon to Alta and a jeep trail extending on to the Albion Basin; a parallel and well-paved route leads up Big Cottonwood Canyon to Brighton, where a passable extension has just been graded across the high country to Park City and the Heber Valley. Still other roads penetrate the Wasatch — and many of them open up chapters of history as well as extremely pleasant scenery. U.S. 6-50 from Colorado pierces the range by way of Spanish Fork Canyon — Escalante's route.

Popular U.S. 40, grown four lanes wide, swings through Parley's Canyon at an easy gradient partially following the road taken by late-coming Mormons and the Pony Express. The 1847 Saints traveled a route, now partially paved, which you can readily duplicate from Henefer to East Canyon and across Big Mountain, where they caught their initial glimpse of the Great Salt Lake Valley. The Weber Canyon enfilade through the Wasatch is now traversed by U.S. 30, as well as the Union Pacific Railroad. Markers along the modern highway relate the labors of the trans-continental railroad builders and of Mormon pioneers who fortified Echo Canyon to blockade advancing federal troops in the brief "Mormon War."

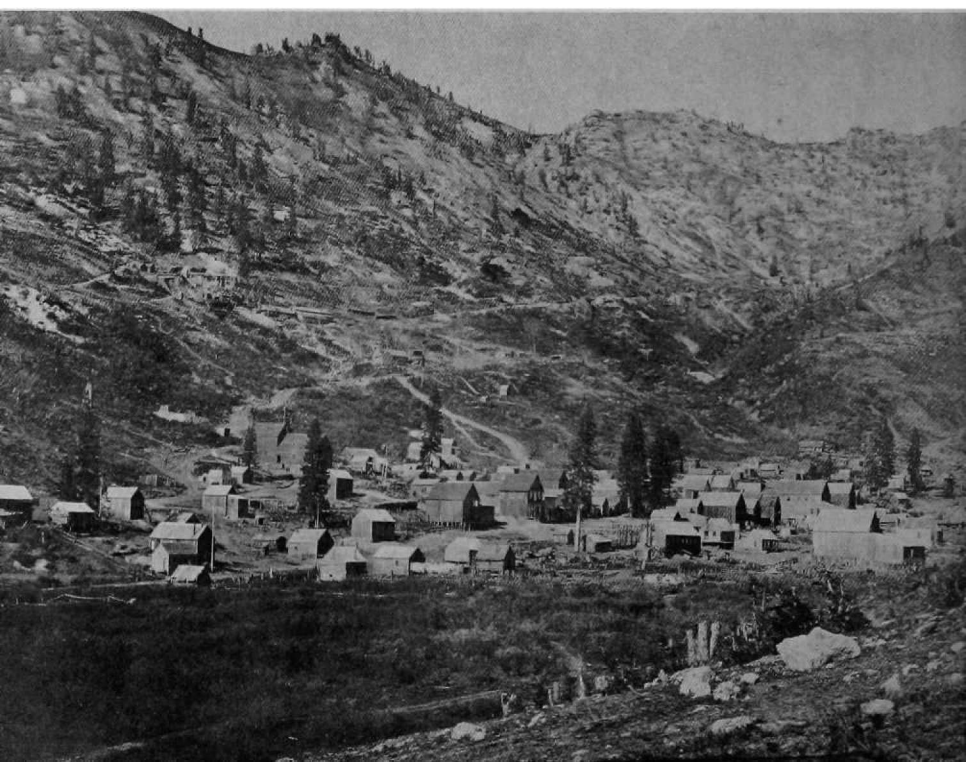
Close by, a road from Utah's second largest city extends up Ogden Canyon to the hamlet of Huntsville with its Trappist Monastery, and on towards the elk country centering around the Hardware Ranch. A bit farther north the road twisting from Brigham City towards Logan and Bear Lake by way of Sardine Canyon skirts the Mantua area. Here a "dugway" road, notched into the mountainside in CCC days by lads who left their own legends far from city sidewalks, climbs painfully to the rim of Willard Peak. It ascends to one of the few spots in all the range where an automobile can reach the top of a mountain fronting the valley of the Great Salt Lake. Another such view, slightly less sweeping but reached by a rather less tortuous road, lies above Farmington in Davis County.

With highways, paved and otherwise, tapping much of the Wasatch, the Forest Service has now blazed fully 800 miles of hiking trails tailored to the needs of those willing to make do with bedrolls and tents in place of swank hotels. The region most rewarding to the casually equipped camper lies between the Weber River on the north and the Provo River on the south. These, incidentally, have been two of the finer trout streams in the entire West, although frequently overfished.

The best starting place for the average hiker or camper with a week or so at his disposal is Brighton, pavement's end on the twenty-mile-long highway leading east up Big Cottonwood Canyon from Salt Lake City. Here, by riding the Mount Millicent or Mount Majestic ski lifts to a 10,000 foot high shoulder of the range, would-be explorers can get good over-all views of the terrain north, south, and east.

Members of the Wasatch Mountain Club, a local hiking unit with a tidy headquarters' cabin at Brighton, will gladly give expert advice to visitors concerning necessary duffel and favorite campsites. A Forest Service ranger at Brighton can assist with information concerning virtually

*Alta, Utah, in 1873. Nestled high in the Wasatch to the east of the Valley, her mines were once so rich in silver that initial profits from the Emma, the South Hecla, and the Prince of Wales mines ran as high as \$180.00 per ton.*



the entire countryside. In addition, at the Alpine Rose Lodge, Majestic Manor, or Balsam Inn, solid, reasonably priced meals are available the year round; the Brighton store stocks foodstuffs for hikers, hunters and fishermen, and food and fodder are likewise available down the road a piece at the scenic Silver Fork community.

One favorite trail system leading out of Brighton extends to camping sites strung along a thirteen mile route to Sunset Peak, Mount Majestic, and Lake Solitude. Skirting Twin Lakes, Lake Mary, and Lake Martha, all near the 10,000 foot mark, this lakes trail offers tremendous views of the high country, side trips to good fishing spots, a jog to the Alta ski area, and ample material for geologists, naturalists, and camera addicts.

If the history of a once prosperous mining country appeals, and if you are feeling a bit footsore, backtrack a half-dozen miles from Brighton and veer south on the upcountry dirt road marked "Doughnut Falls and Cardiff Mines." After a cooling visit to the falls — a pleasant spot for picnicking — take the Cardiff road fork and putter around in the peak-shadowed area. Here water trickles from old mine entries. Sagging mine dormitories, old mill gears, and rain-washed tailings recall an era when the silver-lead-zinc diggings of the Wasatch helped build major fortunes and even embroiled President Ulysses S. Grant in some international "shenanigans."

Just across the divide from the old Cardiff diggings and nearly one thousand feet straight down lies Alta, reachable by hiking trails, or by a paved, seventeen-mile route from downtown Salt Lake City. Once, shortly after the closing days of the Civil War, teamsters rawhided ore from Alta to the valley in green cowhides. Ox teams labored long and hard to move the tonnage on to Ogden, from which point, after completion of the Central Pacific, the stuff was sped to San Francisco. Next clipper ships transported the ore around the Horn to Wales for smelting. Despite the need to ship their product half way round the world, Alta's mines were so rich in silver, initial profits from the bounteous Emma, the South Hecla, and the Prince of Wales mines ran as high as \$180.00 a ton.

As a result, English notables grew interested in purchasing control of the Emma Mine, especially when its owners, eager for a sale, somehow persuaded President Grant to introduce his sales representative to an ambassador or two. Before too long, the stock was being snapped up by titled Britishers, shares were selling at 30 pounds sterling on the London exchange — and suddenly the Emma "faulted out." All at once miners deep beneath the Wasatch at Alta, following rich silver lodes, found themselves hacking at rock which contained little or no "values."





*Alta, once containing hundreds of buildings and called "home" by thousands of miners, is now a winter ski resort. Above is a view of Main Street in 1873.*

In 1874 the outcry on both sides of the Atlantic became so loud an international team of geologists, led by Heidelberg savants, converged upon Alta and the Emma. Experts picked, pried, and studied, concluded that President Grant was not a fraud, that the promoters were not crooks, and that the Englishmen, along with many mining men before and since, were merely victims of a geologic fact of life. Veins do peter out—as does the demand for such metals as lead, silver, and zinc.

Alta, once called home by five thousand miners, is now a spot in which winter visitors "ski on silver," and in which summertime tourists can climb and hike or pick Alpine wildflowers. Gone are the Bucket of Blood, the Gold Miner's Daughter, and other succinctly named saloons. Alta had a hundred buildings, six breweries, twenty-six saloons and 110 killings by 1872. After demonetization of silver it literally slid downhill fast, assisted by fires and avalanches. Fortunately, Alpine scenery and



*A Miners' Union parade was held on June 13 each year in Park City. The smokestack of the Ontario Mine is in the background. The building on the right is the First National Bank Building which was destroyed in the big fire.*

ski-snow are assets which are not as easily depleted. Only a trickle of ore comes from Alta today, but Rustler, Peruvian, Alta and Snow Pine lodges can count on a flood of visitors when ski lifts operate.

East and a bit north of Brighton and Alta the Wasatch peaks shelter Park City, a sizeable mining community which has taken on the attributes of a ghost town in our own day. In 1940 fully 3,735 people resided on Park City's hillsides, ore trains rolled downgrade over the Rio Grande and Union Pacific spurs, church bells rang, schools were crowded, and men by the thousand went underground at the Silver King, Park Utah Consolidated, and New Park diggings.

Nowadays, motorists can follow an easy, well-paved spur from U.S. 40 to Park City, or drive across the new Guardsman Pass road from Brighton. Hikers or skiers can enjoy superb scenery on the latter route

— and even stop to view a tiny monument erected by hard-rock miners to memorialize the efforts of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in their behalf. But, arriving at Park City, wayfaring strangers find an increasing number of boarded shops and abandoned homes. Buses still bring youngsters to the high school, but hardly enough to fill the seats. The once crowded New Park Hotel is vacant, ore trams are silent, one rail line has vanished.

Obviously, with fine scenery, good skiing, better than average fishing and equally good hunting, Park City could be revived if a Walter Paepke or a Lucius Beebe turns up to transform it into another Aspen or Virginia City. Utah's State Park and Recreation Commission has hopefully suggested development of a metropolitan area park on the Park City drainage of the Wasatch and on the nearby Heber Valley slopes, which could stimulate a healthy revival of the countryside.<sup>1</sup> Till such a project becomes a reality, Park City will dream of the past—and steadily decline.

That past, let it be said, was rough, tough, bawdy and gaudy. Park City and its populace could match reputations with those of any hard-rock region. Soldiers from Colonel Patrick Connor's company, stationed in Utah Territory to keep the peace, went prospecting instead in 1869. A year later, word that their ore find assayed 96 ounces of silver, 54 per cent lead, and considerable zinc started a stampede. By 1872 a gentleman named Rector Steen had located ore running 400 ounces of silver to the ton—and had sold his Ontario Mine to George Hearst for \$27,000. George sired a youngster yclept William Randolph, he in turn founded newspapers, shipped castles from Spain to California, and helped whip up a small war. Had Steen not found his mine, had Hearst neither purchased same nor had a son devoted to yellow journalism, Teddy Roosevelt might not have galloped up San Juan Hill, the Spanish flag might still fly over Cuba and the Philippines, and we might not be familiar with such names as Corregidor or even Castro. . . .

Back in the days of Hearst ownership, dozens of small mines dotted the Park City slopes. But flooding was a major problem, pumping and tunneling were costly, so mergers resulted. Major mines built fortunes for Thomas Kearns, later publisher of the *Salt Lake Tribune* and one-time United States Senator. Mine wages helped support saloons, gambling joints, and "establishments." As late as 1889 "madams" were being fined \$40.00 and "girls" \$20.00 on a quarterly basis. The funds raised thereby, along with license fees from saloons, provided the city fathers with their chief municipal revenues!

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the Utah State Park and Recreation Commission, 1959* (Salt Lake City, 1959).



*A saloon in the town of Park City in its heyday. The patrons are unknown.*

Most western mining towns burned with almost monotonous regularity, and Park City was no exception, with its most rousing blaze in 1898 very nearly expunging the community. Strikes by the Western Federation of Miners, troubles with the IWW, periodic efforts to restrict "soiled doves" to smaller districts and equally periodic drives on gambling were commonplace in this sector of the Wasatch.

Prohibition and the coming of the auto doomed the Park City folkways of yore. The swinging door and open gambling hall vanished simultaneously when the speak-easy appeared upon the scene. Henry's Ford enabled miners to drive to Salt Lake or other night life centers of a Saturday night. Things were never again the same.

Mine output totalled some \$4,000,000 in 1939. The production of lead, zinc, and silver rose mightily during the war years, only to slump again when world markets and the output of offshore mines approached "normal." Since western producers cannot compete with low-wage, low-cost diggings abroad, Park City's population has been dwindling — leaving the hill country back of town to hikers, sheepmen, hunters, skiers, girl scouts at Camp Cloud Rim, and sightseers on the Guardsman Pass road.

South and east of Park City, fewer than sixty highway miles from Salt Lake City, a very different sort of community nestles in a pocket of the Wasatch. At Midway, in the Heber Valley, white men and red men have come to the "hot pots" for more years than the oldest settler can re-

member to gape at bubbling pools of 98 degree water and bathe in the naturally heated tubs of *aqua pura*.

Now a tidy resort, "The Homestead," caters to summer and winter travelers. Operators have acquired a typical Heber Valley farmstead and transformed it into a pleasantly styled, somewhat southern appearing resort, complete with veranda tables, an ancient piano, a restaurant, and a small soda fountain.

In addition to hot-pot swimming, there is a more normal fresh-water pool. Horses are available, the trails are good, the atmosphere is pervaded with the sort of lazy quality that recalls the Virginia Blue Ridge or Irving's own Sleepy Hollow countryside. Heber Valley scenery is different, of course. In addition to carefully tended farm fields, Deer Creek Reservoir provides a sizeable mirroring basin for Mount Timpanogos, principal peak of the region.

At any season Timp is a considerable mountain, with a drive of some forty miles needed to skirt its serrated flanks. There are two "best ways" to view Utah's favorite mountain—the drive along the Alpine Loop highway, or on foot, up its backside. For persons who have an urge to climb a man-sized mountain but who do not care to work too hard at it, Timpanogos, which rises a respectable 12,008 feet above sea level, has all the attributes of better known peaks plus one distinct advantage—a summit fairly readily reached. Blessed with spectacular cliffside waterfalls, a mile-long snow field, and the remnants of a glacier, Utah's Timp can be scaled by the average well-conditioned hiker in half a day. In contrast with peaks of equal altitude in the Colorado Rockies or the Tetons, no climbing gear, pack animals, or guides are required for an assault. One need only don comfortable shoes, serviceable trousers, pack a picnic lunch, and ascend trails prepared by nature and Uncle Sam's Forest Service.

The highway linking Heber with Provo (U.S. 189) intercepts State Highway 80, a sector of the Alpine Loop, a dozen miles above Provo. Up this loop road Aspen Grove, a natural amphitheater, sits upon a 6,000 foot shoulder of the parent peak. At this spot, one of the most popular campsites in all the Wasatch, a neatly graveled footpath leads from the ranger station through aspens and fresh-smelling pines to the initial up-trail zigzag, at a cascade bearing the contradictory but official title of "Unnamed Cataract."

Beyond this easy climb the six-and-one-half-mile pathway to the summit steepens sharply. But it never becomes dangerous, and is never too tough for the sedentary climber who is willing to halt for a rest when

tuckered. In fact, in late July of each year, as many as 1,500 Utahans take part in an annual mass climb to Timpanogos Glacier and the summit.

Ordinarily, aspiring mountaineers have the Timpanogos trail pretty much to themselves. The ascent should be made in the cool morning hours, allowing some four hours of easy climbing to reach the summit, plus a luncheon stop at the glacier, and another three hours to descend.

Above Unnamed Cataract the eastern slope of Timpanogos is made colorful by a series of glens, with the trail crisscrossing through a procession of half-a-hundred waterfalls. Nearly everyone of these cascades terminates in a tree-shadowed pool flanked by meadows sprinkled with bright wildflowers. The water is pure and cold — there is little need for a canteen on Timpanogos.

In addition to its multitude of mossy ledges and picnic spots where footsore climbers can take time out to rest, the mountain pathway abounds in sweeping views eastward across fertile, irrigated Utah valleys, mathematically patterned in hues ranging from dark green to bright yellow. Even if the hiker gives out well below the peak, a Timpanogos climb gives the outlander a firsthand view of the wonders worked by a half-century of irrigation projects in the Heber Valley region.

After an hour-long trek at an ordinary pace, the midsummer climber crosses the first of many snow patches lingering on the slopes throughout the year. Soon, in addition to the shade afforded by thinning foliage near the timberline, the high altitude air is cooled by increasingly sizeable deposits of snow, and it is possible to toss August snowballs at trailside rocks or trees.

Moss Falls, Baby Falls, Columbine Falls, and Amphitheater Falls thunder at the pathway's edge. Otherwise, only the sound of western songbirds breaks the Wasatch stillness. Near the 10,000 foot level climbers reach the first of a series of glacial cirques — rocky hollows edging back into the steep mountainside where wildflowers and foot-deep snowbanks exist side by side.

Next the climber reaches Emerald Lake and the timberline, an Alpine setting easily a match for many more famous spots in Switzerland or the Banff-Lake Louise country. Emerald Lake is a sizeable pool fed by Timpanogos Glacier which rises abruptly to the southwest. Here the ice breaks up in mid-July, but floating ice cakes abound even in mid-August.

This is a pleasant but chilly spot, ideal for devouring a midday meal. In addition, Emerald Lake's frigid waters prove perfect for cooling weary feet. And climbers who despair of reaching the tip of the peak, here visi-



ble as a seemingly sheer rock wall directly overhead, can always return to the valley floor to truthfully report on climbing to timberline and glimpsing a glacier.

At the foot of the glacier, hardier hikers will find a fork bearing right and leading directly from the 11,000 foot level to the summit. This last mile is the stiffest part of the climb, due to the gravelly shale underfoot and the thinning atmosphere.

Compensation comes moments later in the form of a magnificent view of the entire Wasatch Range to the north, south, and east. At the summit, where a metal-sheathed Forest Service hut provides shelter against mountain storms, there is an awesome view to the west as well. Since Timp rises sheer from the flatlands left in the wake of prehistoric Lake Bonneville, towns on the valley floor to the west lie nearly 7,000 feet below, clearly outlined against the grey-green waters of Utah Lake. Off to the northwest, the seventy-five mile long Great Salt Lake seems of bathtub dimensions, ringed by the Wasatch, the distant Oquirrh Mountains, and the distant Nevada peaks. In every direction the views are superb — north toward the American Fork Twins, the Alta Basin and Brighton's ski country, south to neighboring Mount Provo and Mount Nebo, and east toward the country traversed by the Spanish padres, the Mountain Men, and the Mormon pioneers.

Back at Aspen Grove, the Alpine Loop highway provides a well paved, tremendously photogenic route back to Salt Lake City and civilization. For eight miles across the Wasatch, from the Provo River to the American Fork, the highway follows the path of mountain goats that once inhabited the countryside. Climbing to 8,500 feet at one point, the route rises through hardwood forests which turn a livid scarlet in autumn months, and winds through acre upon acre of quaking aspen, their leaves and trunks all gold and silver. Its switchbacks and turnouts give mile after mile of views across timberline country, down into gorges, or up the flanks of snow-tipped peaks. For those who like to do their sightseeing from an upholstered seat, the Alpine Loop road offers the best available sampling of Wasatch scenery.

If, after climbing, driving, riding, and just plain rambling in the Wasatch, you want an insight into what these mountains are made of, conclude your explorations with a visit to Timpanogos Cave National Monument. The Alpine Loop road down American Fork Canyon leads to the parking area — but a visit to the inside of Timpanogos means almost as much of a climb as a trip to the mountain's tip.

This is one cave entered by clambering up, not down. Visitors taking the mile-long trail zigzagging up twelve hundred feet of canyon wall will find, however, that benches are thoughtfully placed along the route — and most of the trail has been asphalt surfaced. Climbers reach the cave in a bit less than an hour, and on this hike are treated to some of the most startling views of steep-walled canyons, mountains and valley scenery in all the Wasatch.

The caverns are cool, a constant 40 degrees, so bring a sweater. Opened to the public a quarter of a century ago, this chain of small caverns is well lighted but unmarred by the commercialization so often found at caves located outside the public domain. Stalactites, stalagmites, under-ground pools—Timpanogos has its full quota, even to such formations as a Chocolate Forest and a Great Heart.

Outside, in the daylight of a Wasatch afternoon, look aloft to the peaks a last, lingering time, and drive on home — be it to some spot in Utah, or in some distant state. Someday, it is hoped, the routes leading to isolated Wasatch peaks and canyons can be linked up; someday, it is hoped, a system of State Parks will ease the strain on existing campgrounds and picnic areas; someday, it is hoped, resorts of national caliber, worthy of the mountain setting, can be developed for summer and winter guests. Till then, despite the lag in developing creature comforts, the Wasatch slopes and streams, crags and canyons, remain an exciting and inviting region, as fine a slice of mountain country as can be found anywhere in these United States.

Ramble in and around those peaks, return, report on them to your neighbors — and perhaps write the book or paint the pictures needed to bring the Wasatch into clearer view.

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